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VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 9 • SEPTEMBER 1998



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THE JOURNEY

Soldiers endure extremes at boot camp. Surgeons hone their skills at medical school. The newest sports sedan from Infiniti? It was put through its paces in Europe. Introducing the all-new G20.[®] The sports sedan born of meticulous Japanese design. But sent to Europe for finishing school.

JAPAN



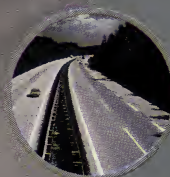
Infiniti builds some of the finest luxury sedans on the planet. And the new G20 is no exception. Our factories feature the world's most state-of-the-art manufacturing processes, including robotic technology, inspection lasers and a couple thousand exacting pairs of hands.

FINLAND



With average winter temperatures of -4° F, what better locale to test the new G20's components than in Levi, Finland. From its rubber door seals to the automatic climate control, every aspect of the car was tested. And appreciated.

GERMANY



Perfect ribbons of asphalt and famously lenient speed limits made Germany's autobahn the perfect place to develop its front and rear multi-link suspension. After racking up thousands of kilometers, we're pleased to say it passed with flying colors. Literally.

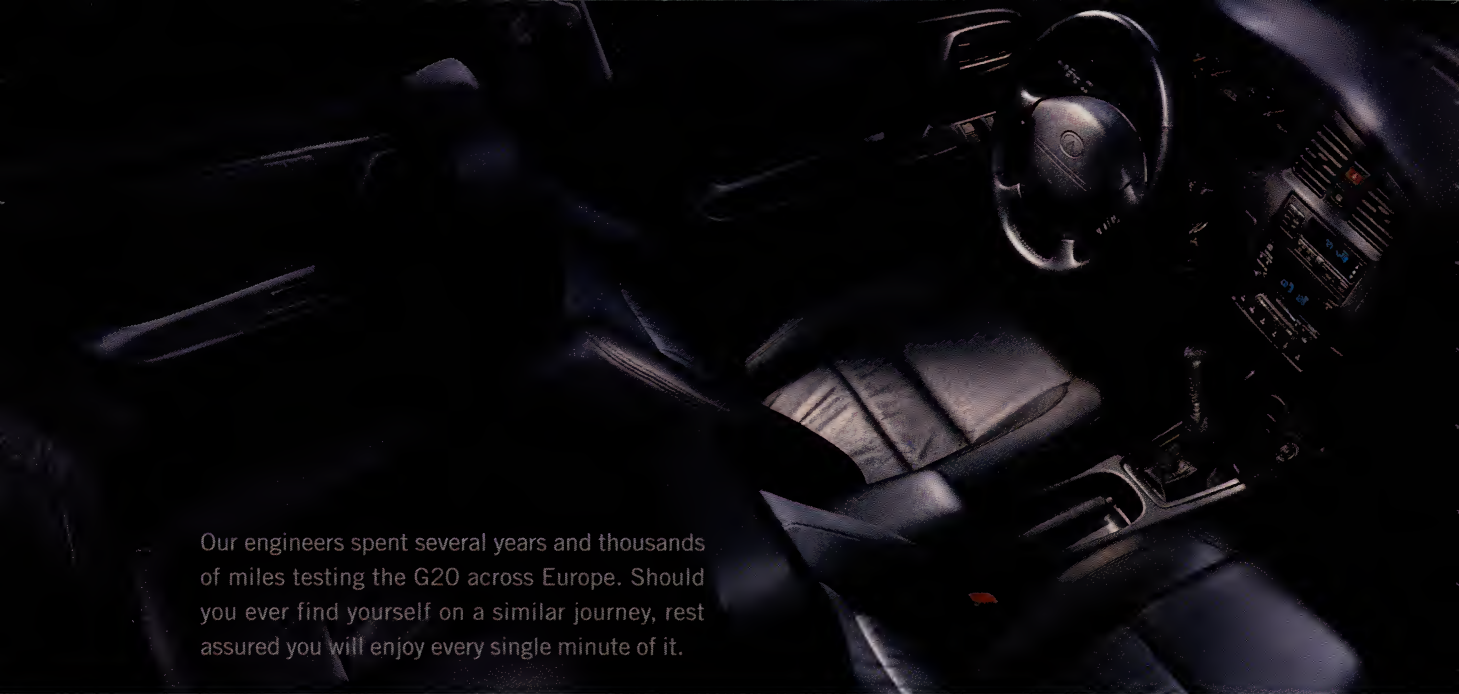
ENGLAND



Next stop: England's British Touring Car Championship. Tracks like Silverstone and Donington Park helped us refine its multi-link suspension and responsiveness. You'll appreciate the results, even if you never see a checkered flag.*

THE ALL-NEW INFINITI G20.

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LUXURY



The 6-speaker, 100-watt Bose® audio system with AM/FM/cassette and in-dash CD is just one of the new G20's amenities. Other features include available digital automatic temperature control and available heated leather-appointed seats with power driver's seat.

PERFORMANCE



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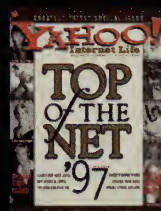
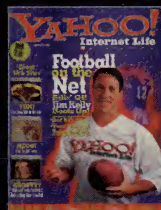
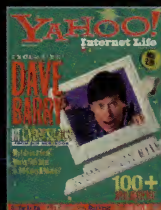


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AN ANNIVERSARY INVITATION

When I came to edit this magazine a bit more than two years ago, Yahoo! was a thriving but relatively modest Net directory, and Ziff-Davis had the novel idea of publishing a magazine as a joint (though editorially independent) venture, using that cheery, optimistic word in its title. I came aboard in early 1996, staffed up, and prepared to take it monthly in September. (For those of you counting, there were four earlier quarterly issues, one of them published under another title.)

Since then—a span of months that, measured in breakneck Internet time, works out to about 14 years—the Net's population has doubled, our circulation has quintupled, Yahoo! and its rivals have become media empires, and the Web has passed from being the latest tech fad to a medium that intersects people's lives at every conceivable level.

As the most widely read Web magazine in America, we thought it a good time to pause and take a comprehensive look at how the Internet's now really being used in America—and throughout the world.

So, this special issue.

So, a bit of celebratory cheer from a magazine staff relieved, happy, and just a bit amazed to be riding the crest of this digital wave.

So, thanks to our readers, and visitors online, for your support and mostly good wishes (even the flames keep us toasty). We invite you to enter this issue—no knocking or clicking required. As our first name implies, we're here to inform and guide, and have a good time doing it.

For us, it's two years down and goal to go. The goal being, of course, whatever the Internet decides to be next month.

Barry Gelson

Editor-in-Chief



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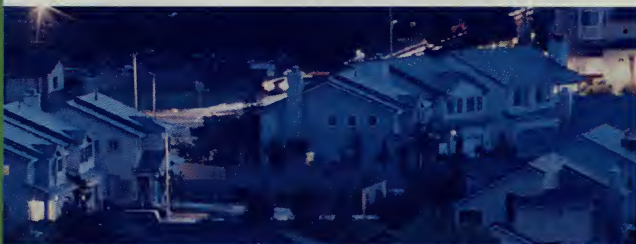
A person is fishing at night, holding a fishing rod that extends across the frame. The background features a vibrant sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a bright orange and yellow glow on the horizon. The sky is dark with some stars visible. The overall mood is serene and evocative.

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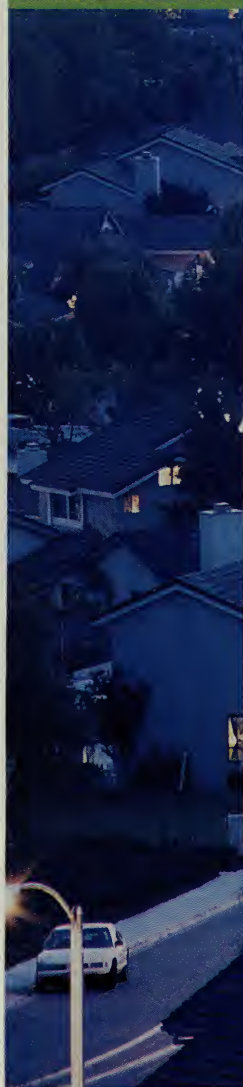
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98



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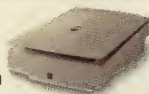


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SEPTEMBER 1998

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I SEEK YOU [ICQ] (PAGES 104-106)

- ☐ AOL Instant Messenger www.aol.com
- ☐ Ding! www.activerse.com
- ☐ iChat Pager www.ichat.com
- ☐ ICQ www.mirabilis.com
- ☐ PeerChat www.peerchat.com
- ☐ PeopleLink www.peoplelink.com
- ☐ Yahoo! Pager pager.yahoo.com

SCHOOL'S IN! (FOREVER) (PAGES 108-116)

Required Reading

- ☐ IDEAL: International Digital Electronic Access Library www.idealibrary.com
- ☐ Teaching and Learning on the WWW www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/tl
- ☐ Education World www.education-world.com
- ☐ StudyWeb www.studyweb.com

HOW AMERICA USES THE NET

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The Big Picture

- ☐ Economic Statistics Briefing Room
www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/income.html

How America Uses the Net

- Farmer
 - ☐ The Farm [home page] www.thefarm.org
 - ☐ CNN www.cnn.com
 - ☐ Mushroompeople www.thefarm.org/mushroom
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- ☐ Alejandro Antonio Alonso [home page]
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members.aol.com/kayakjds/ranger/info.htm
- ☐ Cystic Fibrosis Discussion/Support Group
cf-web.mit.edu/cystic-l
- ☐ Jeanne Freibert
www.jfreibertstudio.com/jomofa

Truck Driver

- ☐ TruckNet www.truck.net
- ☐ The Weather Channel www.weather.com

Comedian

- ☐ Sinbad's Soul Music Festival [home page]
www.soulmusicfestival.com
- ☐ broadcast.com www.broadcast.com

Mother of 10

- ☐ NerdMom's Home and Garden
[home page] www.geocities.com/PicketFence/1298

Private Investigator

- ☐ The PI Mall [home page] www.pimall.com
- ☐ Professional Clown

- ☐ Bumper the Clown [home page]
stevefowler.home.mindspring.com

- ☐ Charlie the Clown www.charlietheclown.com

Cabbie

- ☐ My Fare City [home page]
www.captivated.com/carson
- ☐ Survival Research Laboratories
www.srl.org

Herbalist

- ☐ UniTea Herbs [home page]
www.indra.com/brigitte
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Activist

- ☐ ACT UP/New York [home page]
www.actupny.org

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- ☐ David Kawada's Home Page www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Marina/5333

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- ☐ Kathy Ireland [home page]
www.kathyireland.com

Newspaper Customer Representative

- ☐ Becki's Home [home page]
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- ☐ Anchorage Daily News www.adn.com
- Mailman
 - ☐ psychobop [home page]
www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/5542

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www.aloha.net/~bsm
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- ☐ MSI Wicks and Heaters [home page]
www.msivix.com

Senator (Republican)

- ☐ Conrad Burns [home page]
www.senate.gov/~burns
- ☐ Associated Press www.ap.org
- ☐ The New York Times www.nytimes.com
- ☐ The Washington Post
www.washingtonpost.com

Senator (Democrat)

- ☐ Carol Moseley-Braun [home page]
www.senate.gov/~moseley-braun

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- ☐ Voiss Imaginative Essentials [home page]
www.lockjaws.com

- ☐ Scott Schulman www.dogfolio.com

Online Sex Adviser

- ☐ Lucy Lipps [home page]
www.lucylipps.com

Fifth-Grade Teacher

- ☐ Mr Spiro's Home Page
angelfire.com/ma/agawamteacher

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- **Amazingly Adorable Anna** members.aol.com/fanform/anna
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- **SiN** www4.activision.com/games/sin
- **Outwars** www.microsoft.com/games/outwars
- **FireTeam** www.fireteam.com
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- **Meet Me in New Orleans** www.southernmusic.net/orleansthisweek.htm
- **PaganForum** www.talkcity.com/chat.html?room=PaganForum
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- **Friday Night Trivia** www5.zdnet.com/cc/rooms/lizardl.html
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- **Ask Evel** www.tripod.com/sports/evel
- **TerraServer** www.terra-server.microsoft.com

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- **AnimaX International ASA** www.animax.no
- **The Back Station** www.neosoft.com/~rmikles
- **The Panda Project** www.pandaproject.com
- **I.R.I.S.** www.irislink.com
- **Interactive I/O** www.interactiveio.com
- **Floating Arms Keyboard** www.wpdesigns.com

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- **Digital Freedom Network** www.dfn.org
- **Pregnancy Ring** www.fensende.com/Users/swynmph/Ring.html
- **Fish Talk with Uncle Bill** www.fishtalk.com
- **Teen-to-Teen** www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/3239
- **Recycler's World** www.recycle.net
- **Antarctic Philately** www.south-pole.com

E-Z USER (PAGES 54-63)

- **Librarians' Index to the Internet** sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex
- **Scout Report Signpost** www.signpost.org/signpost
- **NetLingo** www.netlingo.com
- **Quick View Plus 4.5** www.inso.com/qvp
- **KeyView Pro 6.0** www.keyview.com
- **ZDNet Software Library** www.hotfiles.com
- **Group 42** www.group42.com
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- **Anonymizer** www.anonymizer.com/surf_free.shtml
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- **The Cyber Holler Software Revue** members.xoom.com/warehouse/revue.htm
- **NetOptimizer** www.touchstonesoftware.com
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- **PictureMall** www.picturemall.com
- **RamenCity** www.ramencity.com
- **JumpMusic.com** www.jumpmusic.com
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- ☐ The Mountain Zone www.mountainzone.com/auction
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- ☐ WebMedLit www.webmedlit.com
- ☐ Help for World Travelers www.kropla.com
- ☐ The Chemical Scorecard www.scorecard.org
- ☐ JobSmart Salary Surveys jobsmart.org/tools/salary/sal-surv.htm
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- ☐ Employment Search Readiness Inventory www.careerweb.com/inventory
- ☐ Accountant Finder www.cpafinder.com
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- ☐ HTML, The Game www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Marina/4802/thegame.htm
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- ☐ Deja News www.dejanews.com
- ☐ Great Internet Grey Out www.greyday.org
- ☐ Ask the Speaker speakernews.house.gov/asknewt
- ☐ Moon-Watch.com www.moon-watch.com
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- ☐ StickyRice www.stickyrice.com
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- ☐ Herbworld www.herbworld.com
- ☐ The Nature Node www.naturenode.com
- ☐ Piranha.org piranha.org
- ☐ FreeThemes www.freethemes.com
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- ☐ Retro Active www.retro-active.com

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- ☐ HotelView www.hotelview.com
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- ☐ Sleep & The Traveler www.healthtouch.com/level1/leaflets/sleep/sleep032.htm
- ☐ Go Camping America! www.gocampingamerica.com
- ☐ TravelDog www.traveldog.com

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- ☐ The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism www.niaaa.nih.gov

- ☐ National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information www.health.org
- ☐ Close to Home Online www.pbs.org/wnet/closetohome
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- ☐ All-Music Guide www.allmusic.com

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- ☐ Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Monster Page of Links www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/7621
- ☐ My So-Called Life idn.net/~dolphin9/mscl
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- ☐ alt.talk.royalty FAQ users.uniserve.com/~canyon/atrfaq.htm
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- **Web Thesaurus Compendium** www.cui.darmstadt.gmd.de/~lutes/thesauri.html
- **Encyclopedia.com** www.encyclopedia.com
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www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/bartlett
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www.askanexpert.com/askanexpert
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www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook

How to Write a Paper

- **Research Papers** owl.english.purdue.edu/Files/Research-Papers.html
- **Citing Sources from the WWW**
www.mla.org/main_stl.htm#sources
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Why Can't Johnny Surf?

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www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown
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forum.swarthmore.edu/students
- **Science Learning Network**
www.sln.org
- **Surfing the Net with Kids**
www.surfnetkids.com
- **Web66: A K12 World Wide Web Project**
web66.coled.umn.edu

Getting Class: Subjects A-Z

- **AccountingStudents**
www.accountingstudents.com
- **American Studies Crossroads Project**
www.georgetown.edu/crossroads
- **Anthropology Resources on the Internet**
www.nitehawk.com/alleycat/a-index.html
- **Cyburbia.org** www.arch.buffalo.edu/pairc
- **The Art History Research Centre** www.fofa.concordia.ca/arh/AHRC/index.htm
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- **Virtual International Business and Economic Sources** www.uncc.edu/lis/library/reference/intbus/vibehome.htm
- **General Chemistry Online!**
antoine.fsu.umd.edu/chem/senese/101
- **Electronic Resources for Classicists**
www.tlg.uci.edu/~tlg/index/resources.html
- **Computer Science Undergraduate Tutor Service** ww2.netnitco.net/users/suchoza/tutor.htm
- **Inkspot** www.inkspot.com
- **Sarah Zupko's Cultural Studies Center**
www.mcs.net/~zupko/popcult.htm
- **The Intuitions College Theatre Guide**
dolphin.upenn.edu/~intuiton/guide/newguide.html
- **EcEdWeb** ecedweb.unomaha.edu
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www.englilb.cornell.edu/ice/ice-index.html
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- **S.O.S. MATHeMatics**
www.math.utep.edu/sosmath

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www.siba.fi/Kulttuuripalvelut/music.html
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www.tp.umu.se/TIPTOP
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- **Psych Web** www.psych-web.com
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www.clas.ufl.edu/users/gthursby/rel
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www.york.biosis.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/zoolinfo.htm

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- **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations** www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/bartlett
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- **Amazon.com** www.amazon.com
- **Encyclopaedia Britannica** www.eb.com
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- **Dig Dirt** www.digdirt.com
- **EDGAR Database of Corporate Information**
www.sec.gov/edgarhp.htm
- **Forbes Digital Tool** www.forbes.com
- **Privacy Rights Clearinghouse**
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- **Equifax** www.equifax.com
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PUBLISHER Jim Spanfeller • jim_spanfeller@zd.com

Associate Publisher • Paul J. Turcotte • New York • 212.503.4773 • paul_turcotte@zd.com
Circulation Director • Steve Sutton • New York • 212.503.4709 • ed_whitaker@zd.com
Director of Marketing • Edward Whitaker • New York • 212.503.4709 • ed_whitaker@zd.com
Promotion Director • Holly Staid • New York • 212.503.4708 • hstaid@zd.com
New York Sales Manager • Geoffrey P. Maresca • New York • 212.503.4802 • geoffrey_maresca@zd.com
District Sales Manager • Pam LaBance • New York • 212.503.4782 • plabance@zd.com
District Sales Manager • Kristine Givas • New York • 212.503.4713 • kristine_givas@zd.com
District Sales Manager • Andrew Sobel • New York • 212.503.4714 • andrew_sobel@zd.com
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Southwest Sales Manager • John Weisgerber • Los Angeles • 310.268.1380 • john_weisgerber@zd.com
Detroit Sales Manager • Jay Beckley • 248.359.2903 • jay_beckley@zd.com
Southeast Sales Representative • Amanda Szawast • 770.645.6855 • linmann@aol.com
Marketing Specialist • Jennifer Scroggs • New York • 212.503.4809 • jennifer_scroggs@zd.com
Assistant to the Publisher • Laura E. Eydelor • New York • 212.503.4702 • laura_eydelor@zd.com
Advertising Coordinator • Sherry Levy-Shallit • New York • 212.503.4822 • sherry_levy@zd.com
Advertising Production Manager • Anna Koneval-Gajdos
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ADVERTISING OFFICES

One Park Ave., New York, NY 10016 • 10 Presidents Landing, Medford, MA 02155 •
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What's Up with That?

America Online seems to be like those old Listerine commercials: "I hate it, but I use it twice a day." Everyone loves to bash it—even its loyal users do it—but the truth of it is that AOL is about the easiest way there is to get online.

Much of what Rebecca Eisenberg says in her anti-AOL article ["AOL: Love It Or Leave It," June '98, page 98] is either misleading or just plain wrong. For instance: "If you want to purchase music while using AOL, you must purchase it through N2K." What's up with that? If she means "while using AOL and not going through it onto the Web," then maybe she's right. But it's a real simple task to log on to AOL, hit Command-K (search keyword) [in AOL 4.0], and simply type in a Web URL to get you to CDnow or MassMusic or Amazon.com or anybody else. AOL doesn't stop you; it's a pretty seamless operation.

As for her statements like "when you can even log on at all...," this is a bad rap that used to be true in the olden days, but isn't true anymore. I'm online both at work and at home for much of the day and evening hours (OK, I have no life), and I haven't experienced connect problems for more than a year. And AOL tech support has gotten so superior it's mind-boggling. I have never waited more than 60 seconds on the phone to speak to a real live human being...and the online tech support is also instantly available.

AOL has its problems, as does every ISP, but let's focus on the real issues, and not on the old perceptions that people still cling to because it's just more fun to dis Steve Case.

—RUTH GRETZINGER
PerpetuaG@aol.com

From One Cinemaniac to Another

An open letter to Roger Ebert:

A number of issues ago, you wrote an article about Microsoft's cancellation of Cinemania as a CD-ROM product ["The Last Digital Picture Show,"

December '97, page 50]. I agree. They've killed my favorite movie reference and yours. Of course, similar material, in greater volume and variety, can be found on the Internet. But at what speed? My old 486 has a 2X CD-ROM drive—a data-transfer rate of 300Kbps, at a onetime cost I paid years ago. My Internet service tops out at 33.6Kbps—or much less on overloaded servers—even on my new computer. I could get ISDN, at 128Kbps on fast servers, for \$63 per month, and my data rate would still be less than half that of my old CD-ROM. Guess which I prefer.

Of course, Cinemania is now a static resource, while Internet resources can be updated constantly. But that can be fixed. Cinemania 97 (and maybe earlier versions) has an Internet update feature. It can download periodic

update files that kept Cinemania current as long as the updates were provided. If new update files were available, whether from Microsoft or another source, Cinemania users wouldn't have to choose between fast-but-static and slow-but-current.

What could replace Microsoft as a source for Cinemania updates? There is no shortage of people who eagerly reverse-engineer game database formats to cheat on computer games. They could easily reverse-engineer the Cinemania update-pack format. And there are lots of people on the Net who are willing to spend lots of time working on movie databases. Combining those talents could bring periodic updates back to Cinemania.

The unofficial update packs would be quite a bit larger than Web page hits on movie Web sites, but each

movie article only has to be downloaded once. If the server load were too much for movie-enthusiast volunteers, perhaps Yahoo! or the *Sun-Times* might want to take up the job, either for advertising impressions or for a subscription charge. I paid to buy new editions of Cinemania, and I'd be happy to pay a similar amount to keep it current.

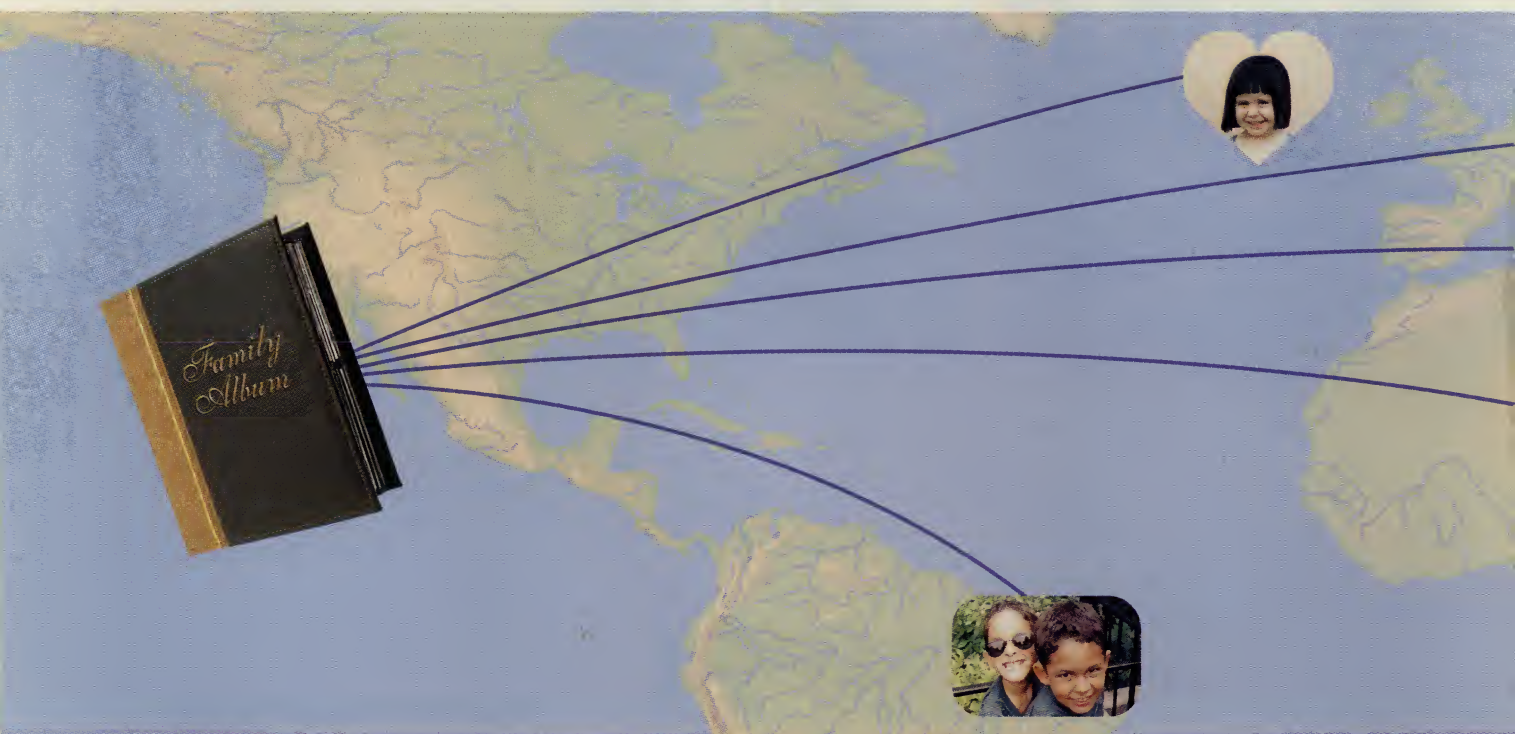
I could have written to Microsoft to ask them to resume Cinemania updates, but if your article didn't get them to do it, my request won't either. But you can distribute this idea widely, so the problem can be solved without Microsoft. Wouldn't that be nice?

—STEVE SCHONBERGER

steve.schonberger@mailcity.com

Roger That, Too

I agree wholeheartedly with Roger



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Ebert when he says that Web pages are filled with too much useless graphics ["Keep It Simple, Surfer," July '98, page 60]. I tried his suggestion and used the text-only option on his employer's Web site [www.suntimes.com], and it's great. But it only works at one level. That is, it only works at the level of the main menu. When you pick any text item from the main menu, you still get page after page of submenus filled with the usual redundant graphics that frustrate rather than inform.

Roger made a very valid point. Personally, I rate most Web sites, especially the major ones, at only 2 percent information, 98 percent foolish interference. But I wouldn't give his newspaper very high marks over MSNBC, either, since even with the trick he mentions I still must pass through too many submenu pages that

are very slow due to an overabundance of redundant graphics. Why doesn't he convince his newspaper to go all the way and make all menus text-only when the user so desires? That way, I might have the time to read his articles once in a while.

—PAUL CASTONGUAY
paul_castonguay@email.msn.com

A Classy Page

One issue that continues to be controversial concerning the Internet is its involvement with education. Many schools are hooked up, some are fighting for access, and others are standing strong against it. Perhaps you could consider an article that covers schools with Web pages. I don't know how many there are out there, but I imagine they are there. You can start by looking at a page that covers a school

tremendously. It is the **NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL HOMEPAGE** [ideanet.doe.state.in.us/k12/nridge/index.htm]. I think you'll agree that it does a fine job of letting the viewer discover Northridge High School. It was developed by a math/computer teacher there and a group of kids involved with the computer club. Maybe you could show what that school and other schools have been doing with the Web. Perhaps even create Web Awards for Education? By the way, Northridge doesn't even have Web access, and look what a great site they have created!

—MATT GIBSON
boomalatty@aol.com

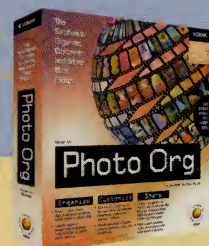
Man, Chatty Sister Reunited via WebTV

I was glad to see the article on WebTV ["WebTV: Is It Cool or Does It Suck?" July '98, page 98], and I agree with the



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author's points. It is very affordable. I've given some to family members who either don't write or call very often but will e-mail, or to ones who want to talk my ear off, always at an inconvenient time.

The author is also correct that the main downside is that it won't run some applets such as Java, so we can't do some of the live chats or see some of the new video or sound files.

One thing that's missing from the article, however, and I find this surprising given that the blurb on the cover touts your "couch testing" of WebTV, is that the keyboard is wireless. I can come home after being hunched over the keyboard at my desk, and lay on my couch looking at a full-size television to browse and e-mail. Couch-potato bliss!

—DON WEINDORFF
bohdi@webtv.net

Pappas vs. Gunn: Privacy Rules!

Well said by Angela Gunn ["Banning Privacy: Not on Our Lives," July '98, page 64]! The inflammatory rhetoric on this issue reminds me of the similar flames that raged four years ago on computer viruses. Rather than use reasonable prevention, companies wanted to cut connections to the Internet. My argument then was the illustration of my child getting the flu from another student at school. It doesn't mean I should pull her out of school. It just means that I should take precautions. Same with the issue of inappropriate use of the Net. Take precautions—not extreme measures. I am not advocating support for slander, pornography, or child solicitation in the guise of free speech. I'm asking to apply currently available, reasonable measures. I like my privacy. I don't want the government intrusion that Charles Pappas advocates. Checks against

aberrant behavior are already in place.

—MICHAEL CHASE
mchase@swspectrum.com

Pappas vs. Gunn: Privacy Is Only OK

Regarding Charles Pappas's and Angela Gunn's articles on Net privacy, I lean toward Pappas's argument. No, I don't want my and others' privacy invaded. But I do want to be able to know who sent messages! I've received many messages asking if I want pornographic pictures. No, and I want to be able to find out who's sending those damn things so I can have a slight chance of not having to read any more of them. I don't see that as a trampling of privacy.

And, Angela, it's insulting to have "simpleminded" hauled out by someone in every argument.

—DAVE GILLAP
gillap@inforamp.net

Chase it, rope it, hog-tie it and print it.
Yee-Haw! You're the big bad Web wrangler.



There's a new Internet software in town. It goes by the name WebRecord™. Working side-by-side with your browser, WebRecord allows you to fetch and organize entire Web sites without even visiting them. One click formats multiple pages onto a single page and a second sends the little doggie off to the printer. For more information call 1-800-OK-CANON, or stop by www.software.canon.com/wr for a free demo download. Now git.



He's X-Static

Being a big *X-Files* fan, you can imagine my excitement when I learned that Dean Haglund of *The X-Files* cast listed my humble Web site [www3.sympatico.ca/roddy/ghost.html] as one of "The Web's 25 Best Conspiracy Sites." I was hoping that you could forward this message to Mr. Haglund to thank him for including my site in the list. I am truly beside myself. This is great!

—RODDY DOUGLAS

roddy@stones.com

Mr. Douglas's site was listed as part of our expanded X-Files coverage online at www.zdnet.com/yil/content/mag/9807/xfiles.html. Our July '98 print edition's X-Files feature begins on page 66.

Did You Look in Your Heart?

Using the address you provided in "Backchat," July '98 [page 24], none of

the search machines, including Yahoo!, were able to find God. Have you destroyed Him? If so, can you raise Him?

I'm sure there are hordes of users who would like to communicate with Him.

—PHILIP H. SHEDD

phs3061@pacbell.net

We incorrectly listed the URL [www.yil.com/god] with an uppercase G. The URL works with a lowercase g.

And He Will Always Love Her

I am very upset that your online music poll ["Who's Your Favorite Internet Music Star?" July '98, page 88] has missed the most gifted recording artist that ever graced the presence of the Grammys: Whitney Houston. Her talent is extraordinary and wonderful. How can you put minor talent on your poll like Beck and Paula Cole without putting the one person who really

deserves to be on the list?

—ADAM I. IDDRISS

aiist@pitt.edu

RELOAD

In our July '98 issue (page 109), we mistakenly credited Dean Foust for the "Storybooks for Kids" review. The writer was Dina Gan.

HOW DOES THIS MAGAZINE WORK TOGETHER WITH YOUR WEB SITE? You can find parts of this issue—and other, daily features—on our site at www.yil.com.

WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH YAHOO!, THE DIRECTORY? You go to Yahoo! [www.yahoo.com] for directions to sites on the Web; you come to us for info about why you would want to go to those sites, and for a sense of what all the daily hoopla really means.

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EDITED BY RON BEL BRUNO

LIFESTYLES

OF THE WELL CONNECTED



DAVID LETTERMAN

[marketing.cbs.com/lateshow]

In January, David Letterman told us that "1998 means more free time to design Web pages!" So when Dave's official *Late Show* home page launched, we asked, "Did he do any of the work?"

Sadly, the answer is: Nope. So here are our 10 reasons why Letterman passed the mouse:

- [10] Hurt clicking finger in 'Nam.
- [9] Afraid he'd wander online and "get jiggy with it."
- [8] Hidden Webcams.
- [7] Preoccupied by running a 12-step group with Norm MacDonald for NBC survivors.
- [6] Johnny never had a Web page.
- [5] Concerned the site would cannibalize TV viewers from the show, placing it behind *Silk Stalkings* in the Nielsens.
- [4] Jack Paar didn't have one, either.
- [3] Might run into former sidekick Larry "Bud" Melman online.
- [2] Worried that Margaret Ray would stalk the home page.
- And the No. 1 reason why Dave decided to delegate:
- [1] Thought HTML meant "hot-tubbing with Monica Lewinsky."



MEMORABLE SITE

An Oasis for Would-Be Explorers

NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM

[www.nationalgeographic.com]

Certain items you just can't throw out—that circa-1969 yo-yo with the frayed, 4-inch cord, and the *National Geographic* magazines in the garage. Somehow, every trip with them to the curb takes a detour to Samoa or New Guinea as you fold out maps and flip through lush photos. But those static pages can't reflect our changing world, either ecologically or politically, so the National Geographic Society's Web pages are now tracking such issues as the ever-changing borders of Eastern Europe and Asia, global warming, and protection of the oceans' reefs. Map lovers with a yen for accuracy shouldn't miss the Map Machine, while history buffs should browse and search the entire 109-year article archive. How much of this bountiful resource you explore, of course, is up to you. As is the case in real-world adventures, the only boundaries you'll encounter here are the limits of your own curiosity. —B.B.

THIS MONTH'S CLICK CLIQUE: Scott Alexander, Bob Berger, Dean Foust, Mark Glaser, Angela Gunn, John House, Bruce Judson, Elissa Klotz, Reuben Maness, Charles Pappas, Tom Watson. **Write to Click@zd.com.**



NET OBSESSIONS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & TRENDS



ANNA KOURNIKOVA

She lost at Wimbledon, but Anna's a winner on the Web, racking up more pages than Venus Williams or any other woman challenger at this month's U.S. Open. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 25. Start @:

AMAZINGLY ADORABLE ANNA

[members.aol.com/fanform/anna]



NORNS

Unlike tamagotchis, yesterday's hot digi-pets, norns want more than food and love—they want to *learn*. You'll find them in Creatures, a Mindscape CD-ROM game that's spurred an active norn parents' community on the Web.

YAHOO! SITE COUNT: 26. Start @:

THE NORN ADOPTION CLINIC
[www.home.gil.com.au/~emersonh/frame.html]



PRINCE WILLIAM

As the world learns to live without Diana, princess of Wales, her oldest son is fast becoming the subject of those controversial camera lenses—and a bunch of fan pages. **YAHOO! SITE COUNT:** 22. Start @:

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT PRINCE WILLIAM
[come.to/Prince_William]



WALTER B. SCHUBERT

GFN: A Window Out of the Closet

Who needs another online brokerage? Gay and lesbian investors do, says Walter B. Schubert, founder of the Gay Financial Network [www.gfn.com] and the first openly gay NYSE member. Here's his take on why this is the case.



Y-LIFE: Why a gay brokerage? Can't gay and lesbian investors use a conventional online firm?

SCHUBERT: [It's about] fear...what kept me in the closet for so many years. If I came out, I might lose my clients. In that same way, many gays and lesbians are afraid to get more involved with investing.

Y-LIFE: But what's fear got to do with it?

SCHUBERT: To walk off the street into a bank and say, "I'm gay," or, "We're a gay couple" isn't easy. Gay and lesbian investors are often reluctant to discuss the necessary details of their personal lives with a financial professional.

Y-LIFE: And you're changing that?

SCHUBERT: Yes, gay and lesbian investors can now, no matter where they live, get financial advice and transact investments—without fear of bad treatment.

Y-LIFE: But can't they do that with any online firm? Is GFN simply espousing a ghetto mentality?

SCHUBERT: No, they can't, and it's much deeper than that—it's really a lifestyle issue. The gay human being is culturally different. Our financial needs are different. A gay financial professional can better understand and work with those differences to the client's advantage.

"Whether in town or in the country, most Americans wear whatever clothes they want....Southerners and Midwesterners are neater than people from the east and west coasts."

—excerpted (and translated by Reuters) from a Chinese primer on American culture at www.china.com/clinton, written on the occasion of President Clinton's recent visit

S "Read my e-mail. No new Net taxes!"

—REP. CHRISTOPHER COX (R-Calif.), sponsor of a bill that nixes federal taxes on Net transactions and services for the next three years

6699 "He's like a psychic...he makes thousands of predictions, and when one accidentally comes true, everyone says he broke a story."

—LARRY KING, discussing Net gossipmeister Matt Drudge

NET BRIEFS

HOW DO YOU BREAK A WEB RECORD? Ask the proprietors of **FRANCE98**, the official 1998 World Cup Web site [www.france98.com]. On June 30, the site logged a chart-topping 73 million hits, representing approximately 881,000 user sessions. The previous one-day record-holder, NASA's *Pathfinder* site, clocked 46.9 million hits on July 8, 1997....**SEQUELS WORK IN HOLLYWOOD, SO WHY NOT IN CONGRESS?**

Two new bills carry the torch of the late Communications Decency Act: Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) Internet School Filtering Act attempts to mandate Net filtering software in federally funded schools and libraries, while Sen. Dan Coats's (R-Ind.) Bill S.1482 aims to make the posting of material "harmful to minors" a crime for commercial sites....**A BAND OF HACKERS/ACTIVISTS OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR ARMAMENT** hijacked more than 300 Web sites on EasySpace, a British Web page

host. The hack rerouted visitors clicking into the heisted pages to a mushroom-cloud graphic and an antinuclear-arms message.... **IT'S YOUR**

TURN. September 30 is the last day to vote

for the first new Monopoly game token to be introduced in 50 years (candidates pictured at left). Log in with your choice at [www.monopoly.com]....**REACH OUT AND SURF SOMEONE**

could be the motto of a united AT&T and Tele-Communications Inc. (TCI), once the long distance mainstay gets approval on its \$48 billion acquisition of the cable company. The merger's result? A high-speed single line carrying telephone, video, and Net data to U.S. households....**JE VEUX MA**

MTV! Though Viacom won't debut its European version of M2, MTV's interactive sister channel, until October, music-loving European Net surfers can preview it online. The 24-hour M2 Webcast is the first round-the-clock venture of its kind for Europe.



survey says

After all is said and deposited, is Bill a good guy or a bad guy? A recent poll posted on the **DAILY ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK** [www.den.net] says that 15- to 24-year-olds aren't sure how to answer the question. They also cited "the rise of the Internet" as the third-most defining moment of their lives, topped only by the *Challenger* shuttle explosion and the fall of the Berlin Wall. We agree.

THEIR HEROES

- 1 Luke Skywalker
- 2 Jesus Christ
- 3 Michael Jordan
- 4 Martin Luther King Jr.
- 5 Their parents
- 6 Mother Teresa
- 7 Princess Diana
- 8 Steven Spielberg
- 9 The man in front of the tank [think Tiananmen Square]
- 10 **Bill Gates**

THEIR VILLAINS

- 1 Saddam Hussein
- 2 Barney
- 3 O.J. Simpson
- 4 The IRS
- 5 Satan
- 6 Bill Clinton
- 7 **Bill Gates**
- 8 Timothy McVeigh
- 9 Unabomber [Ted Kaczynski]
- 10 Darth Vader



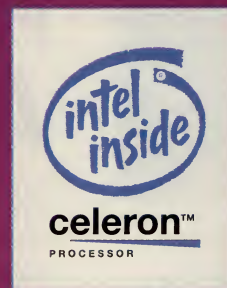


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MONEY

Ward Off Rogues

Before you issue that "buy" or order on the hot tech stock du jour, put **STOCK DETECTIVE** [www.stockdetective.com] on the case. It sniffs out investment scams—everything from rogue-stockbroker swindles to bought-and-paid-for Web sites purporting to offer independent market analysis. And if you've already had the misfortune of being burned by a broker who lost your nest egg in a speculative stock that bombed, the site suggests how to exact the appropriate legal revenge. —D.F.

MONEY SAVED: How much are you investing today?



Credit Card Repair Shop

Nightmare: The mortgage broker says "a defaulted student loan" mentioned on your credit report has nixed your mortgage application. **Reality:** Mom and Dad paid the tuition in full. Recent studies show that almost one-third of all consumer credit reports contain such serious errors. **VICTIMS OF CREDIT REPORTING** [pages.prodigy.com/ID/vcr/vcr.html], an engaging, well-written nonprofit site, explains credit scoring, and how to have inaccuracies removed. Tip: Check your credit report even if haven't been "victimized." It could save time and money before you apply for a loan or mortgage. —C.P.

TIME SAVED: Applying for a loan in vain.

HOME

Thank Them For the Memories

America Online's You've Got Pictures service, through which AOL members can receive prints as e-mail from Kodak film they've dropped off at a photo store, is perhaps the easiest way to share favorite images online. But how do you share the Web photos you already have, be they scanned or paper-based, without doing the work yourself?



TIME SAVED: 5-10 hours scanning photos and creating a Web site
MONEY SAVED: Scanning and/or reprint charges

For a small fee (about \$15 for 20 pictures), **MEMORIES ONLINE** [www.memoriesonline.com] will create an online, password-protected album of your digital photo files. (Scanning services are also available at extra cost.) The best part: You still get to do the fun stuff, such as selecting the sequence of your snapshot presentation, writing titles and captions, choosing background colors and music, and adding yet more unforgettable images to the collection. The initial site fees provide you with four months of online publishing space (start now and you're safe through the holidays); renewals keep the memories alive. Just think: no more reprints. —C.P.

search results

KEANU'S BIRTHDAY

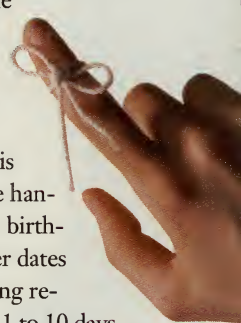
Keanu Reeves (9/2).11,754
Dry heaves1,144
Ask Jeeves3,342
All about Eve2,425



WORK

A Place to Remember

Your date book isn't cutting it, but you can't bear to add another gadget to your electronics collection. **EORGANIZER** [www.eorganizer.com], a free, Web-based (and ad-supported) planner, offers an alternative. It sends you e-mail every day—or several times throughout the day—with your pre-designated to-do and appointment lists. This virtual noodle handles meetings, birthdays, and other dates similarly, issuing reminders from 1 to 10 days before the event, as well as on the day itself. With this kind of support, can you ever forget a date? Maybe—if you never wanted to remember it in the first place. —B.J.



Painless E-Mail

NETWORK SOLUTIONS INC.

[www.netsol.com], the well-known keeper of Web addresses, is now beta testing a service for small businesses that need their own e-mail domains—but *don't* need the technological headaches of managing an e-mail system. Starting in early October, NSI will charge \$119, plus a small monthly fee, for a domain (e.g., abcwidgets.com), multiple e-mailboxes (e.g., ceo@abcwidgets.com) and e-mail hosting services on its servers. Pretty smart.



TIME AND MONEY SAVED: The cost and administration of e-mail software.



★ ★ ★

THE SAME
SINCE THE
SIXTIES.

THAT WOULD BE
THE 1860'S.



Tennessee Whiskey • 40-43% alcohol by volume (80-86 proof)
Distilled and bottled by Jack Daniel Distillery, Lem Motlow, Proprietor,
Route 1, Lynchburg (Pop. 361), Tennessee 37352 • Placed in the National
Register of Historic Places • Visit us at <http://www.jackdaniels.com>.

Your friends at Jack Daniel's remind you to drink responsibly.

YAHOO YENTA

WRITE YENTA AT CLICK@ZD.COM



Dear Yenta,
I haven't been on the Internet very long, but from what I'm reading in those Usenet newsgroups, I may never get the chance to be an expert. Are all these Nos-tradamus translations for real? Did he really say the world was going to end in 2000? How would this affect my 401(k) plan?

—Apocalyptic in Ann Arundle

Dear Apocalyptic,
If I put a nice, well-written article on a Web page that said the moon was made of cream cheese and Nova lox, would you believe it? My cabaret act is already booked for 13 weddings in the 1999–2000 season, and you're ready to cast off my future because of *alt.too.much.time.on.hands*? Let Yenta set things straight. Newsgroups are like visiting the in-laws: It's nice to stop and chat, but talking too much with some of them can make you dizzy and upset. Why not go read your horoscope instead? At least you can find out what's going to happen this week, not two years from now!

EXTREEMELY SPECIALIZED CHATS

RhodeslandAdults
America Online

Limp, flaccid, small, and impotent
www.chat.yahoo.com

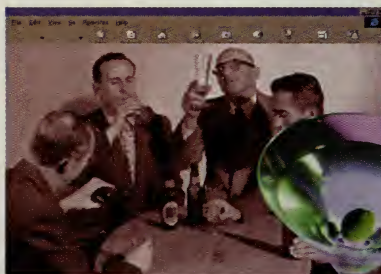
PhillipinesMabuhay
CentennialRoom
www.chat.yahoo.com

Cops with attitudes
America Online



H O M E G R O W N H O T L I S T

Y-LIFE PRESENTS NOTABLE PERSONAL PAGES ON OUR RADAR THIS MONTH



HUMOR

TWO MARTINIS TILL HOME

With bar cars, the mobile corner saloons of the rails, slowly disappearing, author Tom Skinner has created **BARCAR**, a memorial to the social institution of suburbanites schmoozing on the move as well as a living community of discussion threads and shared humor—just as you'd find on a real-life bar car. Cheers! [www.barcars.com]

FAMILIES

(BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND) DINNER WITH ANDRE

The main event here is **ANDRE JR.** His favorite things on TV include *The Simpsons* and the theme to *Days of Our Lives*. But wait: Before you start criticizing indulgent Web hacks, know that Andre is 15 months old. And though his dad actually created this page—

PERSONAL HOME PAGE COUNTER

4,277,800

Estimated number of personal-page registrations reported at GeoCities, America Online, and Angellire, as of July 1, 1998

which includes a new Andre picture every day—it's smart, witty, and amazingly devoid of schmaltz. And you said you didn't want kids? [www.teleport.com/~andre7]

FANS

HOLLYWOOD METAMORPHOSIS

Though the Web already suffers the weight of maudlin Hollywood tributes, we always welcome more-thoughtful efforts, such as **HOLLYWOOD HAUNTS**. This series of essays examines not so much Hollywood's past, but rather the *whys* and *hows* of its many changes. It's where you'll find, for example, how the works of Cary Grant and Woody Allen really are related. [www.geocities.com/Hollywood/7148]

'ZINES

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

John Lloyd-Jones is a man with eclectic taste, and he shares it in the "rooms" of **J-ZINE**, a journal of personal experiences, literature, recipes, and, yes, even audio performances. Whether you're in the "kitchen" checking out a broccoli-and-fennel recipe or listening to Lloyd-Jones's piano rendition of Oscar Peterson's "March Past" in the "music room," there's never a dull moment with this Renaissance man. [members.tripod.com/~John_LloydJones]

—T.W.

LABORS OF LOVE

YAHOO! CREATORS JERRY YANG AND DAVID FILO SELECT A SITE BUILT WITH TRUE PASSION

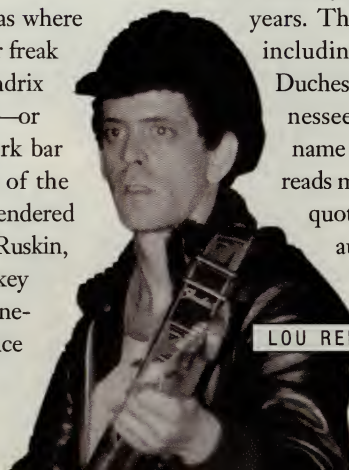
The Duke, the Duchess, and Lou

MAX'S KANSAS CITY

[www.maxskansascity.com]

Max's Kansas City was where you could "let your freak flag fly," Jimi Hendrix once said. Now you can visit—or revisit—the famous New York bar and back-room rendezvous of the 1960s and '70s on this vividly rendered Web site by Yvonne Sewall-Ruskin, wife of Max's proprietor Mickey Ruskin. Sewall-Ruskin and one-time Blondie Debbie Harry once

waited tables there, serving just about everyone who was anyone during those heady yester-years. The joint's cumulative guest list, including Patti Smith, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Janis Joplin, Tennessee Williams, and Lou Reed (to name a few), defies stereotyping and reads more like a *Who's Who* roll. With quotes, photos, and even real-time audio of the raucous goings-on, these pages are required browsing for students of American pop-culture history.



LOU REED

RICHARD ALAN SMITH

Special Advertising Section

WALK THROUGH WALLS



SYMANTEC.TM

No Barriers

Getting the most out of your computer has never been easier — or more important.

With each passing week your computer takes on more jobs. It's your livelihood, and the place you keep your financial records. It helps the kids do their homework. Your computer preserves a treasure trove of files, inspires creative projects and provides the tools you need so you don't stay too late at the office. It allows you to gather information from the far reaches of the planet and shop in cyberspace malls. You can use your computer to play games — by yourself or in a crowd. Thanks to your computer, you write letters again, knowing they'll be delivered in minutes instead of days or weeks. It's even become your family photo album and a darkroom all rolled into one.

No question about it. Your computer helps relieve the burdens of work and chores, opens new arenas for the curious of mind and offers welcome comic relief whenever you want it.

But as your computer's tasks and assignments grow, so does its

complexity — and the importance of the data it contains. These days, your computer runs more applications and supports more members of your household than ever before. And it needs some care and feeding to serve you well.

Easy as one, two, three

Happily, taking care of your computer and the valuable data on it is not hard. The goal is to eliminate external threats to your system, keep it running smoothly and prevent time-wasting and data-destroying failures when you're using several applications at once.

With just a few simple steps and the right software products, you can keep your data safe and your Windows system in top condition.

Protect your system

Unless your computer always runs in complete isolation — no email, no downloaded files from the Internet, no floppy disks used on another system — then you *need* to worry about viruses. And though computer viruses can be scary — freezing your system, eating your data — you can defend yourself.

So, while you may not be able to avoid computer viruses, you can protect your system by installing an antivirus utility like Norton AntiVirus™ that scans your disk, finds viruses lurking there and gets rid of them.

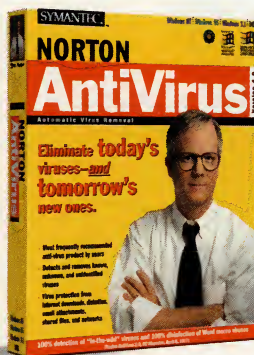
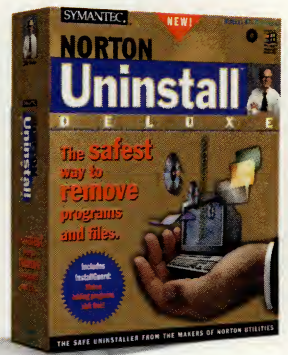
Norton AntiVirus automatically protects your computer against both today's viruses *and* tomorrow's unknown viruses, covering all

possible sources of infection, including the Internet, floppy disks, email attachments, shared files, and networks. Backed by Symantec's AntiVirus Research Center (SARC)™, Norton AntiVirus uses Bloodhound™ heuristics — earning Virus Bulletin's 100 percent rating for detection of in-the-wild viruses, those viruses that pose the greatest threat to consumers.

Norton AntiVirus never becomes obsolete because it enables you, with a single mouse-click, to download new virus definitions created by SARC. These updates are easy to install and work automatically in the background. Norton AntiVirus also includes Repair Wizard™ which removes viruses from your computer automatically. No wonder a 1997 Hebert Research Study revealed that Norton AntiVirus is recommended by users more frequently than any product of its kind.

Clean your machine

You can replace just about everything in and around your computer — except your data. Lose your data and your only alternative is to recreate it, something that can take entirely too much time.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US ON THE WEB AT

One of the most effective ways to ensure that your data is safe is to keep your hard disk as free as possible of unwanted files and applications.

When it comes to removing applications you no longer use, however, you'll need more than your delete key. That's because the Windows operating environment scatters application files across multiple directories, making them tough to trace. What's more, applications share files, so if you manually delete a file associated with one application, you might make another one unworkable.

The solution? Norton Uninstall[™] Deluxe, which not only deletes the program files and subordinate files of unwanted applications but also removes references to the application in key system files.

Norton Uninstall Deluxe comes with InstallGuard[™], so you can remove the last installation and return your system to its original state. This unique undo capability means you can "test drive" new applications. Meanwhile, Norton Uninstall Deluxe SafetyScan gives you accurate knowledge of your system and configuration for a safe and complete Remove, Move, Copy and Store of all applications and files. You can remove, move, copy and store by subfolder as well as application group, application or file — so it's easy to remove suite components or data files stored in a folder within an application group.

Another exclusive Norton Uninstall Deluxe feature — Autoclean — makes it quick and easy to automatically free up space on your hard disk by removing recycle bin files, temp files, zero byte files and other unnecessary files each time you boot up your

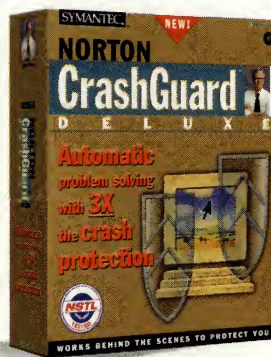
computer. And Norton Uninstall Deluxe Automatic Backup capability offers you an extra safety option by automatically saving a compressed backup of every removal made.

No more crashes

You've probably noticed already that as you put more and more applications on your computer and start using them at the same time, everything hangs. Maybe it's just a simple application lockup. Or maybe there's nothing you can do but turn off your computer and then turn it back on again — and lose the stuff you were working on.

Whether they're minor or severe, computer crashes cost you time and hassle, sometimes worse. Crashes make using your computer difficult and limit its potential.

Your adventures in computing need not be overwhelmed by increasing system complexity, however. All you have to do is install a crash prevention tool like Norton CrashGuard[™] Deluxe, which monitors the workings of your system and alerts you to potential conflicts and problems *before* they occur.



**For an enjoyable,
productive, reliable
computing experience,
all it takes are three
easy steps to no-barrier
computing.**

Norton CrashGuard Deluxe automatically protects you against computer crashes and screen freezes — *three times more effectively than any other software*. Using award-winning Norton technology, Norton CrashGuard Deluxe detects and solves software problems in the background, so neither you nor your system needs to slow down.

With Norton CrashGuard Deluxe, your computer gets regular maintenance and optimized disk performance. Thanks to LiveUpdate[™] Pro, Norton CrashGuard Deluxe can log onto the Internet to find

any software updates or patches that your system needs. All you have to do is choose the ones you want to download and install. Norton CrashGuard Deluxe certifies that they're virus-free and checked for trouble-free installation — *before* they're downloaded. If you change your mind, it can all be undone with just the click of your mouse.

And Norton CrashGuard Deluxe comes with more than 140 instructional videos explaining everything from cleaning a CD-ROM to changing display settings.

For an enjoyable, productive, reliable computing experience, all it takes are these three easy steps to no-barrier computing.

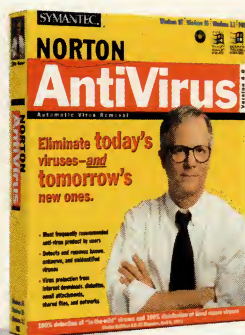
No viruses: Norton AntiVirus[™], to keep your computer safe from virus infection.

No junk: Norton Uninstall[™] Deluxe, so your system stays lean and mean.

No crashes: Norton CrashGuard[™] Deluxe, to prevent the crashes that create frustration and eat up your valuable time.

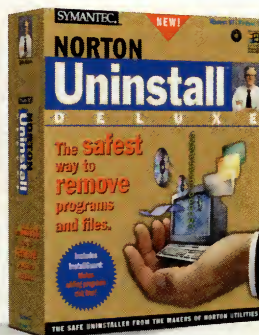
With Norton™ Products Inside Your Computer There Are No Barriers to Achieving Your Goals.

Down go the barriers. Up goes productivity, whether you're at home or at the office. With Norton products you walk through the walls between you and your goals. Norton products eradicate viruses, blow away junk files, and eliminate software problems before they cause crashes. All behind the scenes, automatically. Go ahead, take the first step.



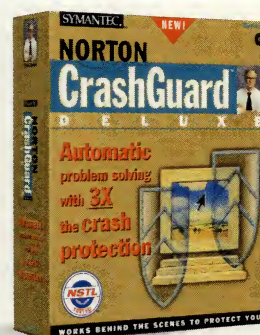
Norton AntiVirus™ 4.0

Share data without sharing viruses. Locate and kill known viruses from any source so you can safely roam the web, get email attachments, share floppies and use network files. It works behind the scenes to provide continuous protection, so you can work with confidence, without the hassles of chewed-up files and programs.



Norton Uninstall™ Deluxe

Cut through the clutter and be more productive. Automatically clean up junk files and programs that drag down your PC's performance. Maintain custom settings and preferences when copying or moving programs. Try new programs without performance and software conflicts. You'll fly through your tasks without old files and programs dragging you down.



Norton CrashGuard™ Deluxe

Lead a crash-free life. Automatically rid your PC of crash-causing software problems; check for conflicts and download fixes via the Internet; and optimize your hard drive for top performance. No more lost files or screen freezes. You'll enjoy more time to do as you please, free from irritating crashes and unproductive downtime.

Get what you want from your computer. Feel like you can walk through walls with Norton™ products. Visit your nearest retailer to buy these Windows® 95 products or try them risk-free at www.symantec.com/promos/nci04.html

No Viruses, No Junk, No Crashes, No Barriers.

SYMANTEC.

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Girl Gamers Travel in Moon's Orbit

Don't act too surprised, but research shows that young, PC-wary girls prefer socially oriented games to shoot-'em-up battle simulations. Yet there's a dearth of girl-friendly titles out there, and there are even fewer inspiring female gaming characters. But what about Lara Croft? Her take-no-prisoners approach to life's bigger adventures creates one unrealistic role model for 8- to 12-year-olds. By contrast, Rockett Movado, the rising star of game publisher Purple Moon's Rockett CD-ROM series, is an approachable every-girl; she faces and resolves typical school-day crises by deploying clever social skills, not missiles. These



games, which at first blush resemble the off-spring of TV's *Degrassi Junior High* and the *Rainbow Brite* books, are inviting, intelligent, and—most notably—interactive. They also encourage young girl gamers to visit Purple Moon's virtual hangout [www.purplemoon.com], where girls chat, build personal home pages, trade virtual friendship trea-

sures, and, yes, read advertising, while Purple Moon monitors ensure a ladylike environment. Interactive sports games, plus more titles in the Rockett series, are slated for next year—all designed with the mission of promoting skill building in place of skull bashing. Sounds like a rational proposition. —R.B.

G A M I N G R O U N D U P

VIRTUAL POOL

We always knew there was a science to billiards. Players in one of eight Gamestorm "pool halls" benefit from the expertise of physicists and mathematicians, who contributed to the design of this faithful pool-hall simulation. Walk around the table, zoom in and out, and line up that perfect shot—it's like the corner bar, minus the smoke and blowhards. *Gamestorm*; \$9.95 per month; PC only [www.gamestorm.com/sports/virtualpool]

SIN

When biochemist-gone-wrong Exelis Sinclair wages warfare with DNA-altering drugs, you—playing the role of Colonel John R. Blade—are dispatched to stop her. This



ELEXIS

twenty-first-century slice of doom features 64-person death-match mode or cooperative multiplayer competition. *Activision*; \$50; PC only [www4.activision.com/games/sin]

OUTWARS

Longing for more bug-extermination flicks such as last year's *Starship Troopers*? Outwars picks up where Raid leaves off, inviting you to thwart alien insect attacks on the universe. *Microsoft*; \$55, includes free online play at Microsoft's Internet Gaming Zone www.zone.com; PC only; [www.microsoft.com/games/outwars]

HEARING VOICES?

Do soldiers chat in combat? We don't know, but they can talk it up via an integrated headset in the **FIRETEAM ACTION GAME** [www.fireteam.com]; *Multitude*; \$50; \$9.95 per month for online only play; PC only. And though voice chats aren't so pivotal to Monster Truck Madness 2, this game's talk option lets players taunt one another during matches. *Microsoft*; \$55, includes free online play at Microsoft's Internet Gaming Zone, www.zone.com; PC only; [www.microsoft.com/games/monster/default.htm]

THE PLAYERS

MULTIPLAYER PICKS

The five most popular game titles at Total Entertainment Network.

1 NASCAR RACING 2

2 Spades

3 Total Annihilation

4 Hearts

5 Magic: The Gathering

Rankings reflect June player traffic at www.ten.net.

TOP DEMOS

GameSpot's most downloaded titles.



BEAST WARS

1 Beast Wars: Transformers

2 3D Ultra Mini Gold Deluxe

3 Deer Hunter

4 Final Fantasy VII

5 Microsoft Golf 1998 Edition

June downloads at www.gamespot.com, a ZDNet site



RANDY WEATHERFORD

(aka Jet-link), a finalist in Season 2 play of Total Entertainment Network's

Professional Gamers League.

VITALS: A 38-year-old electrical engineer from Camarillo, California.

PREFERRED GAME: Command & Conquer: Total Annihilation

YOUR PGL QUOTE IS "DO YOU FEEL LUCKY...PUNK?" CARE TO EXPLAIN?

I guess I put that down as an intimidation tactic. I'm 38—most of the guys playing seem like punks to me.

WHAT ARE YOUR OFF-LINE LEISURE ACTIVITIES?

Skiing and basketball.

HOW DOES GAMING RATE VS. THESE?

The only thing I miss is that I don't get a physical workout, but on the flip side, it challenges my mind.

HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE A WIN?

I usually jump up and down.

YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

A *Y-Life* sampler of lively Net events.
Daily updates at www.ylive.com

Times are Eastern.

SUNDAYS

6:30 P.M.

SOUND ADVICE

Classical music discussion with host Rick Phillips.
www.radio.cbc.ca/programs/advice
8 P.M.

AMERICAN MONTAGE WITH DENNIS MONTAGUE

A roving reporter's snippets of Americana.
www.radio.audionet.com/radio/talk/ubn/daily.htm

MONDAYS

7 P.M.

RAMIFICATIONS

Free legal advice from insiders.
worldwithoutborders.com
7:30 P.M.

NET INCOME

How to make money on the Internet.
www.talkcity.com/chat.html?room=BizCenter

TUESDAYS

9 P.M.

MEET ME IN NEW ORLEANS

Live blues and cajun music from Louisiana.
www.southernmusic.net/orleansthisweek.htm
11 P.M.

PAGANFORUM

Blessings and soul searches abound in these discussions.
www.talkcity.com/chat.html?room=PaganForum



WEDNESDAYS

3 P.M.

BEANO'S BEAT

Weekly college football updates from the ESPN analyst.
espn.sportszone.com/editors/talk/chatter.html
8:30 P.M.

CYBER L.A.W.

A political platform on which all Netizens can discuss the latest legal issues regarding the Net.
www.legalpad.com/chat/schedule.htm



U P & C O M I N G

FILM

The traffic may crawl, but everything else happens at a breakneck pace in *RUSH HOUR*, martial-arts celebrity Jackie Chan's new film. The action takes place on a Los Angeles freeway, where Chan and costar Chris Tucker (*The Fifth Element*'s flamboyant DJ) must defuse a bomb during a monumental traffic jam. The movie's home base on the Web [www.lycos.com/rush] also features an extensive homage to Chan....Matt Damon leaps from the academic halls of *Good Will Hunting* to the smoky back rooms of New York's poker scene (yes, there is such a thing) in *ROUNDERS* [www.miramax.com]. Damon plays a recovered gambler who falls off the wagon when his best friend (Edward Norton Jr.) is released from prison. Damonophiles can also ride the **MATT DAMON**



JACKIE CHAN

UNDERGROUND [www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/schappsj/matt].

ART

Life Begins at 60 could easily be the subtitle of *MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY*, an exhibit of the French master's later works now showing at Boston's **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS** site [www.boston.com/mfa/monet/intro.shtml]. The collection, on its way to London after this stop, celebrates Monet's departure from his earlier Impressionist works.

MUSIC

When rockers **BETTER THAN EZRA** launched a mailing list in 1996, subscribers received an exclusive Christmas album. Though freebies of their latest work, *How Does Your Garden Grow*, aren't likely to appear, you can sample it at [www.elektra.com/alternative_club/better/better.html].... Sinatra's gone, but he's still charting a new release with *Frank Sinatra: The Radio Years 1943-1952*, a collection of 36 never-released songs culled from various broadcasts. The full **SINATRA CATALOG** at [www.sonymusic.com/artists/FrankSinatra] is your ultimate checklist for other Sinatra classics.

YAHOO! INTERNET LIVE

WHEN & WHERE ON THE WEB

THURSDAYS

4:50 P.M.

THUNK

Test your trivia power in this game show.
pseudo.com/shows/thunk
10 P.M.

DEVELOPER CHAT

Tim Gooch on the latest trends in software development.
www.cobb.com/chat.htm

FRIDAYS

9 P.M.

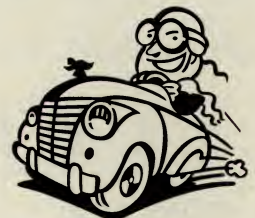
BAHÁ'Í PHONE-IN LIVE

Religion and current events through the Bahá'í lens.
www.bupc.org

9:30 P.M.

FRIDAY NIGHT TRIVIA

Pit yourself against the Great Iguana and win prizes.
www5.zdnet.com/cc/rooms/lizard1.html



SATURDAYS

11 A.M.

AMERICA ON THE ROAD

New-vehicle reports, road tests, and other late-breaking auto news.
www.theautochannel.com/cybercast

THE VINYL CAFE

An eclectic collection of sounds on vinyl.
www.radio.cbc.ca
1 P.M.

NUTHIN' BUT NET

The "who" and "what" behind distinctive Web sites.
www.virtuallycanadian.com

6 P.M. - 7 P.M.

GAY YOUTH

Advice and support for gay adolescents.
www.gay.com
7 P.M.

BOOT SCOOT'N PARTY'N NIGHTS

Weekly country-music variety show.
www.premrad.com/country/boot/boot.html

DAILY AND OTHER

8:30 A.M. - 4 P.M., WEEKDAYS

YESTERDAY USA

Vintage radio and music programs.
www.AudioNet.com/radio/oldtime/yestrday



NO OTHER COMPUTER SPEAKERS GET YOU THIS CLOSE.

If you want to upgrade your multimedia experience, move up to True Digital Audio by Altec Lansing. With True Digital Audio, multimedia applications will jump off your computer screen. Music will surround you. And you'll hear a clarity of sound never before possible. For more information, visit our website. And discover the closest thing yet to being there live.



Pictured: ADA305 sold with subwoofer.

www.altecomm.com

TRUE DIGITAL AUDIO™

**ALTEC
LANSING®**

SOUND WITH VISION.

LISTS & STATS

TOP CHATS

The month's best-attended celebrity soirees at Yahoo! Chat.

WWW.CHAT.YAHOO.COM

- 1 Jewel, [6/3]
- 2 *X-Files: Fight the Future*, premiere [6/11]
- 3 *Road Rules VI* cast, [6/22]
- 4 Rosie's Interactive Mondays, [6/1]
- 5 Warren Beatty, [6/2]
- 6 *Real World VII* cast, [6/16]
- 7 Ringo Starr, [6/17]
- 8 Jonathan Jackson, child actor [6/11]
- 9 *Singled Out*, Webcast [6/16]
- 10 Mitch Pileggi, *X-Files* movie [6/16]

Rankings reflect June chat attendance.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

TOP LIVE EVENTS

The month's best-attended events at broadcast.com.

WWW.BROADCAST.COM

- 1 NHL Stanley Cup Finals, Game 4 [6/16]
- 2 *Hope Floats* sound track listening party, [6/8]
- 3 Backstage at the 1998 Tony Awards, [6/7]
- 4 *X-Files: Fight the Future*, premiere [6/11]
- 5 World championship wrestling bash, [6/14]
- 6 Backstage at HBO *Comic Relief*, [6/14]
- 7 America Online conference call, [6/8]
- 8 Speech by Michael Dell, CEO, Dell Computer [6/24]
- 9 U.S. Open, golf tournament [6/19]
- 10 Roy Rogers "Pleasure and Pain" listening party, [6/9]

Rankings reflect June traffic patterns.

WHAT YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR

The search words posting the largest gains in usage this month at MetaCrawler.

WWW.METACRAWLER.COM

- 1 "lopez" [Jennifer]
- 2 "unreal" [game]
- 3 "hewitt" [Jennifer Love]
- 4 "birth" [online Webcast]
- 5 "monica" [of "Bill &..."]
- 6 "x-files"
- 7 "cup" [World]
- 8 "denise" [Richards]
- 9 "gran" [Gran Turismo game]
- 10 "fair" [Lilith]

MetaCrawler searches AltaVista, Excite, Infoseek, Lycos, WebCrawler, and Yahoo! simultaneously. Rankings reflect June data.

TOP TV SHOWS

The most requested TV-show promo videos in Ultimate TV's promo lounge.

WWW.ULTIMATETV.COM

- 1 *South Park*, Comedy Central
- 2 *X-Files*, Fox
- 3 *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, The WB Network
- 4 *The Simpsons*, Fox
- 5 *Spin City*, ABC
- 6 *Just Shoot Me*, NBC
- 7 *Wild Discovery*, Discovery Channel
- 8 *Dawson's Creek*, The WB Network
- 9 *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, ABC
- 10 *Frasier*, NBC

Rankings reflect June requests.

T H E S I T E S

WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among U.S. Web surfers, according to RelevantKnowledge. Shifts from last month noted where applicable.

SITE	REACH (% OF WEB POP.)
1 Yahoo!/Four11	53.4
2 AOL.com	40.6
3 Excite Network	33.2
4 Netscape	32.4
5 Microsoft	31.6
6 MSN/Hotmail	26.6
7 Lycos/Tripod +1	26.4
8 GeoCities -1	26.0
9 Infoseek	21.1
10 Walt Disney (all sites)	17.5
11 AltaVista +3	16.0
12 WhoWhere/Angelfire	14.5
13 CNET -2	13.8
14 ZDNet -1	11.8
15 RealNetworks BACK	11.7

RelevantKnowledge (www.relevantknowledge.com) measures the Web site preferences of 11,000 business, home, and academic surfers. Individual sites listed above may reflect an aggregation of multiple domain names. Rankings reflect June data. Media Matrix (www.mediamatrix.com) measures site traffic via software installed in 10,000 households using Windows-based PCs. Rankings reflect May data, the latest available at press time.

NET USERS

81,000,000

HOUSE HITS

The Top 15 news/info/entertainment sites visited by home surfers, according to Media Matrix. Shifts from last month noted where applicable.

SITE	REACH (% OF WEB POP.)
1 Disney Online +1	7.4
2 ZDNet -1	7.2
3 Pathfinder	6.1
4 The Weather Channel	5.7
5 Sony Online +1	5.5
6 The Globe +7	5.3
7 Warner Bros. Online +1	4.9
8 MSNBC -3	4.3
9 FortuneCity.com +6	4.0
10 ESPN SportsZone -3	3.8
11 CNN -1	3.5
12 The Mining Co. BACK	3.2
13 CBS TV NEW	3.1
14 USA Today BACK	3.0
15 CBS SportsLine -3	3.0

WEB USERS

66,000,000

...the number of Americans who have ventured online, according to a May Internet Trak poll by Ziff-Davis in conjunction with Roper Starch

BOOKS

BARNESANDNOBLE.COM
WEB SALES

- 1 *I Know This Much Is True*,* Lamb
- 2 *Sugar Busters!*,* Steward, Morrison, et al.
- 3 *9 Steps to Financial Freedom*,* Orman
- 4 *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, Danticat
- 5 *Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr.*,* Chernow
- 6 *Essentials of Microsoft Networking*, ZD Education
- 7 *Walk in the Woods*,* Bryson
- 8 *Building Your First Web Site with HTML*, ZD Education
- 9 *Beginning Visual Basic 5*, Wright
- 10 *FrontPage 98: Advanced (Windows 95)*, ZD Education



COMPACT DISCS

TOWERRECORDS.COM

Understanding the Web's baby-boomer demographic, Bonnie Raitt, Eric Clapton, and Frank Sinatra figure prominently in the Web Top 10 while not appearing at all in Tower's store chart.

WEB SALES

- 1 *Fundamental*, Bonnie Raitt
- 2 *Songs for Swingin' Lovers*, Frank Sinatra
- 3 *City of Angels*, original sound track
- 4 *Adore*, Smashing Pumpkins
- 5 *Romanza*, Andrea Bocelli
- 6 *Zoot Suit Riot*, Cherry Poppin' Daddies
- 7 *Car Wheels on a Gravel Road*, Lucinda Williams
- 8 *Beautiful Maladies*, Tom Waits
- 9 *Pilgrim*, Eric Clapton
- 10 *Only the Lonely*, Sinatra

ON THE RACKS

- 1 *Never Say Never*, Brandy
- 2 *City of Angels*, original sound track
- 3 *Adore*, Smashing Pumpkins
- 4 *The Dirty Boogie*, Brian Setzer Orchestra
- 5 *Before These Crowded Streets*, Dave Matthews Band
- 6 *Ophelia*, Natalie Merchant
- 7 *Ray of Light*, Madonna
- 8 *X-Files*, original sound track
- 9 *Bulworth*, original sound track
- 10 *Big Willie Style*, Will Smith

*Hardcover; rankings reflect June sales.

Both lists represent the week ending 6/30/98.

LISTS & STATS

TOP SHAREWARE DOWNLOADS

The most downloaded software on ZDNet.

WWW.HOTFILES.COM

- 1 *Paint Shop Pro*
Graphics editing and display software
- 2 *AtomTime98 2.0* Synchs your PC's time to the atomic clock
- 3 *Active Worlds Browser 2.0*
VRML site-browsing tool
- 4 *IrfanView32*
Graphics display utility
- 5 *Quick View Plus 4.5*
Windows 95 file-display utility

Rankings reflect June downloads.

TOP RECIPES

The Top 10 recipes requested at StarChefs.

WWW.STARCHIEFS.COM

- 1 *Somewhat Famous Jumbo Lump Crabcakes*, Jimmy Sneed
- 2 *Sashimi*, Nobu Matsuhisa
- 3 *Ecuadorian Shrimp Ceviche*, Douglas Rodriguez
- 4 *Fresh Lemon Sherbet*, Julia Child
- 5 *Grilled Tuna Steak with Nectarine-Red Onion Relish*, Chris Schlesinger
- 6 *Stuffed Artichoke Heart Barigoule*, Hubert Keller
- 7 *Brown Crusty Fish Fillets*, Lynne Rossetto Kasper
- 8 *Flan*, Nancy Silverton
- 9 *Panéeed Veal and Fettucine*, Paul Prudhomme
- 10 *Avocado, Grapefruit, and Curly Endive Salad with Citrus Dressing*, Alice Waters

Rankings reflect June requests.

s n a p s h o t

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT PRIVACY ONLINE?

Yes, Big Brother is watching . . . 67%*

No, no one cares about me . . . 20%

Only if I'm caught doing something wrong . . . 13%

*Percentage of 12,994 ABCnews.com visitors voting in the site's daily "What Do You Think?" poll on 6/6/98

THE WEB'S CELEBS

As Earl Charles Spencer opened his Althorp estate's memorial to his departed sister, Diana, the late princess returned to the chart.

WEB21

- 1 President Clinton +2
- 2 Pamela Anderson -1
- 3 Madonna -1
- 4 Michael Jordan BACK ▶
- 5 Bill Gates BACK
- 6 Hillary Clinton BACK
- 7 Princess Diana BACK
- 8 Cindy Crawford -4
- 9 Demi Moore -3
- 10 Gillian Anderson -1

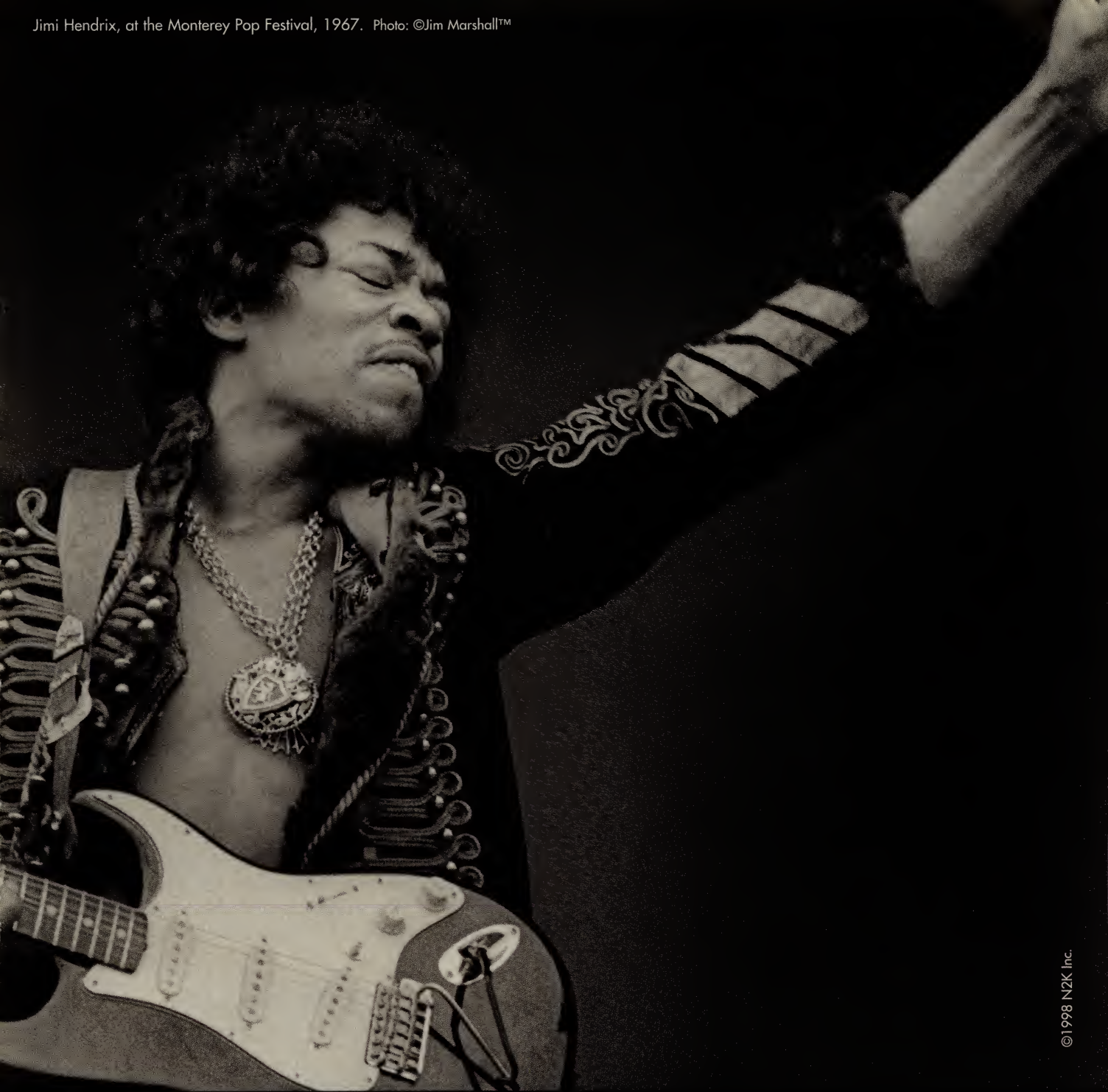
...and bringing up the rear:

- 98 Vanessa Williams
- 99 Susan Sarandon
- 100 Sigourney Weaver

Web21 tracks keywords and phrases within the top 500,000 most trafficked Web sites. Read the full list at www.web21.com. Rankings above represent June statistics.



JONATHAN DANIEL/SPORT



© 1998 N2K Inc.



Search

New Releases

On Sale

Help?

Cart



The Jimi Hendrix Experience

"BBC Sessions"

Available June 2.
2 CD set \$19.99
Order now.

BUY CD



We dig [Hendrix](#). At [musicblvd.com](#), we have all his albums. We also have reviews, sound samples, biographies and articles written about Jimi.

In fact, at [musicblvd.com](#), you can choose from hundreds of thousands of recordings – from virtually any artist – in every genre. You can listen to samples, preorder new releases and enjoy easy, hassle-free delivery to your home.

We're [musicblvd.com](#), the world's #1 online music store. And we love music as much as you do.

[musicblvd.com](#)

AOL Keyword: MB

[Buy music](#). Hear samples. Read reviews. Hang with Jimi.

WISH LIST

OUR RESIDENT NET UTOPIAN'S NOT-SO-MODEST PROPOSALS

BY MARK GLASER

[1] MUSIC À LA MODEM Instead of listening to that bone-jarring screech when your modem connects, why not try this musical retrofit? It replaces squeals with easily adaptable techno-pop ditties from A Flock of Seagulls and Devo.

[2] RELATIVESHIELD

What can you do when Cousin Irkel from Tallahassee gets your e-mail address? This auto-respond program kicks back 404-R ("Relative not found") error messages and faux IRS audit queries.

[3] ULTIMATE CHAT AGENT. This is the only software that can determine the real name of a chat-room user, cross-check it against an online database of marriage and criminal records, and download a rap sheet to three e-mailboxes of your choice.

[4] MESSAGE THREAD FILTER. Snippets such as "Me, too!" "Hmm," and "I agree!" can render an intelligent message thread useless quicker than you can type "LOL!" The MTF deletes offending posts before you read them. An add-on fishes for messages rendered in ALL CAPS.

[5] FWD-BUSTER. Scans your in-box for the phrase "don't usually send these things, but this one is hysterical!" and deletes the offending message.

Mark Glaser is a San Francisco-based freelance writer, critic, and frustrated inventor. Send him your own wishes at glaze@sprintmail.com.

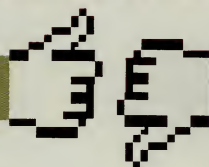
search results

SEPTEMBER RITUALS

Labor Day weekend	13,295
Fall Parents' Weekend	2,607
"Weekend in New England"	129
New England Patriots	12,742



y i p p e e !



ya-hooey!

NAVY VS. MCVEIGH: CASE CLOSED

Last year, an AOL staffer told an unidentified caller (a Navy investigator) that 36-year-old seaman Timothy R. McVeigh wrote an AOL profile including the text "Marital Status: Gay." The Navy soon pursued his dishonorable discharge. Months later, McVeigh has been *honorably* discharged and will receive settlements from both the Navy and America Online, plus an apology from AOL. What's more, AOL rewrote its privacy policy [Keyword: Privacy] and has retrained its customer-service reps in how to avoid future indiscretions.

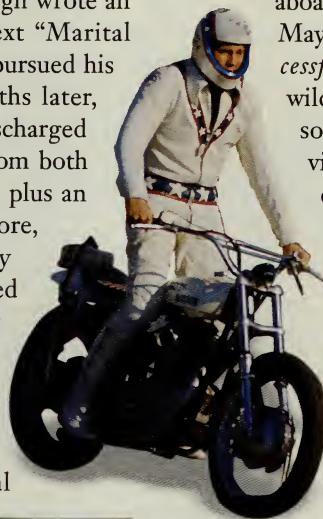
THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Picture this: a Webcam actually being used to address a social issue (parents worried about their kids at day care) rather than exacerbate a fetish (voyeurism). For a monthly fee, at least 75 known day-care centers are hooking parents up with a passworded Web site showing images of their children at work, play, and rest. We give it an A+. [www.youRthere.com/daycare.htm]



EVEL ADVICE IS NO GOOD

Why has Tripod, an otherwise on-the-money site, brought 1970s daredevil Evel Knievel aboard to write an advice column? Maybe, just maybe, if he had *successfully* made some of those wilder jumps, he'd be a credible source of extreme-sports advice. But when the topics include love and finance, your local talk-radio host is a better alternative. [www.tripod.com/sports/evel]



TERRA-BLE TACTICS

TerraServer, Microsoft's online database of spy satellite photographs, is a hit—just ask MSNBC, which ran a report saying as much the day *before* the site's launch. "[The product] goes a long way toward demonstrating that we're scalable for these kind of databases," droned a Microsoft database project manager in the story. [Yawn] Yes, a disclaimer acknowledged the Microsoft and NBC partnership, but someone forgot the warning label for "Unimaginative and transparent shilling within." [www.terraserver.microsoft.com]

SITE GAG

BY MICK STEVENS



"I'M PRETTY EXCITED. A COLLECTION OF MY E-MAILS IS DUE OUT THIS SPRING."



Microsoft



IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM, CRUSH 'EM.

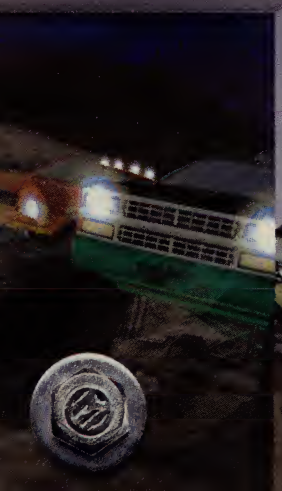
Monster Truck Madness® 2 is here, with more ground-pounding, trash-talking fun than the original. Featuring 20 trucks that show the damage you dish out, including four new WCW™ and nWo™ WrestleTrucks like “Hollywood” Hogan. Risky night racing and nasty weather options. Thumping force-feedback support. The Summit Rumble, an outrageous multiplayer game of “king of the hill.”


And 11 wild new tracks. Get your free demo and start crushing the competition at www.microsoft.com/games/monster/

MONSTER TRUCK MADNESS 2



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My PC's having an identity crisis.
It thinks it's my stereo system.



My PC used to just run. Now it does the tango, salsa and cha-cha-cha. I conquer game-villains with arcade-like, 3-D sound and play CDs that have me swaying like a symphony. There's always been music in my computer. I just realized how to get it out. **USB Digital Speakers.** No sound card. No manuals. No rebooting. Just pure, digital sound without the installation hassle. For more information, call 1-800-835-3506 or visit us at www.usbaudio.philips.com

© 1998 Philips Electronics North America Corporation.



PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

THE JOY(STICK) OF SURFING

ANIR ERGONOMIC MOUSE PRO

Relieving carpal tunnel syndrome: If only it were as simple as uttering, "Calgon, take me away!" If you're worried about the risk of hand or wrist injuries, consider using Anir's Ergonomic Mouse Pro. This alternative to traditional mice is designed like a joystick, with the cursor-control buttons positioned beneath the thumb and behind the middle finger on the hand stem.

RECLINE DESIGN

THE BACK STATION

Think Craftmatic Adjustable Bed for computer users. The Back Station is a motorized workstation that, at the touch of a button, reclines and tilts in six different directions. Unfortunately, the unit does not offer electronic massaging rollers or soothing heating features. But it does come equipped with an inflatable lumbar cushion and a cervical pillow for an ergonomically sound computer and Net-surfing experience. It also happens to be a great place for guests to crash overnight.

SQUARE MEGS

ROCK CITY ST-400

Eschewing the boring, boxy, and beige design of most computers, the hyperengineered Rock City ST-400 cube sports an arty aluminum chassis anodized in such colors as cobalt blue and mamba black. And there's substance to all of this style: The computer's top-of-the-line innards include a 32X CD-ROM drive, an Intel 400 MHz Pentium II processor, a 4 MB AGP Super VGA video card, and a 56Kbps modem.

Anir Ergonomic Mouse Pro, \$69.99
AnimaX International ASA
www.animax.no • 888-291-7449



The Back Station, \$5,295
Alien Furniture Technology
www.neosoft.com/~rmikles
888-626-3026

Rock City ST-400, \$2,595
The Panda Project
www.pandaproject.com
954-435-3310



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ROGERS



IRISPen 3.01, \$299 PC, \$349 Mac
I.R.I.S. Group • www.irislink.com
800-447-4744

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE KEYBOARD

IRISPEN 3.01

If you're tired of transcribing paper documents into your word processor or magazine-link suggestions into your browser window, then take a look at the IRISPen 3.01. This handheld scanner reads lines of text as well as images, and instantly keys them into active computer applications such as Microsoft Word or Netscape Navigator. Some models come with translation software for one of 26 languages.

Virtual Vehicle JD, \$1,295
Interactive I/O Inc.
www.interactiveio.com
714-921-0994



CONTROL AND SHIFT

VIRTUAL VEHICLE JD

The Virtual Vehicle from Interactive I/O aims to improve the online gaming (racing) experience, and it comes standard with a leather-wrapped racing wheel, adjustable seating, a built-in monitor stand, and realistic gas and brake pedals. Though the unit's features jazz up such current multiplayer titles as Interstate 76 from Activision and Grand Theft Auto from ASC Games, we think it could still benefit from the installation of a high-end stereo system, drink holders, and a driver's-side airbag.



Floating Arms Keyboard, \$499
Workplace Designs
www.wpdesigns.com
888-762-2489

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

FLOATING ARMS KEYBOARD

At first glance, the two-piece design of the Floating Arms Keyboard looks like the result of an abusive user/keyboard relationship. Rest assured, the split-board design is intentional. The ergonomically engineered device straps on to the ends of your chair armrests, encouraging a more natural Net-surfing position.

Dineh Mohajer—25 year old nail polish guru

I'm comfortable with my boyfriend wearing nailpolish.
(As long as it's mine.)

Hip and logical
don't always go
hand in hand.

New Color names

Hick
Sushi
Navel
Space Boy
Kung Fu
~~Pink~~
Tokyo

My parents wanted me to
be a doctor. (I hope they're
not too depressed I ended
up the President of
Hard Candy Cosmetics.)

It's In Your Wallet.
It's In Your Life.
It's Everywhere You Want To Be.

Visa® Purchases:
Rite Aid—\$92.80
(Surprisingly, most
of that was spent on cotton balls.)
Oliver Peoples—\$300.00 Sunglasses.
Fred Segal—Expensive shiny pants.
Saks Fifth Avenue—\$495.00 Shoes Shoes. Shoes.
I'm not shallow, I'm a shopaholic.



RANKIT www.rankit.com

TOUCHED BY THE NET

BY MATT RICHTER



PHOTO OF JONAS BY SKID; IMAGING BY GENE BRESSLER

Radio Free Internet

HOWARD JONAS'S SITE GIVES VOICE TO REPORTS ON HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

DIGITAL FREEDOM NETWORK www.dfn.org

As Radio Free Europe before it used the airwaves "to promote democratic values and institutions by disseminating factual information and ideas," the Digital Freedom Network (DFN) uses the Net to promote its political ideals, providing a forum for dissidents worldwide whose voices might otherwise go unheard. One of them, Chinese activist Bao Ge, spent three years in a labor camp for promoting democracy. When, upon his release, he continued to espouse his views, he was forced into exile. His sentiments are now being Webcast on DFN, which offers censored material and firsthand accounts of human-rights violations not just from China but from 18 countries, including Algeria, Kenya, and Turkey. It features letters



from jailed dissidents, newspaper articles, poems and other fictional works, and editorial cartoons. The site's mission is "extraordinarily significant," said Bao Ge at a recent ceremony in New York marking the launch of the DFN site. It "may even mean the introduction of a social revolution" in his homeland, he added.

Half a world away from China is the Hackensack, New Jersey, office of Howard Jonas, who created the DFN site. Jonas, the CEO of the Internet telephony company IDT Corp., and several other individual donors have given \$1 million to fund the site. Jonas is making an effort on the political front, too, calling on the U.S. government to put more pressure on authoritarian regimes to change their ways.

The site draws on material from other human-rights organizations, such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, Index on Censorship, Network for the Defense of Independent Media in Africa, and Reporters sans Frontières, says Bobson Wong, the site's executive director.

The case of Pius Njawé, a newspaper editor in Cameroon who is serving a two-year jail term for writing an article questioning the physical health of the country's president, was featured recently. In a February 1998 letter DFN posted, Njawé wrote about the obstacles he must overcome to communicate with the outside world: "While I may receive newspapers and books, I don't have the right to write. The prison director called me into his office to forbid it. I now write in secret. I must get up at 3 a.m. to write by flashlight, and I must pay my neighbors not to turn me in. This is how I am com-

posing this letter for you. I will send it to my office secretly to be typed into a computer." Njawé further alleged that he had been denied medical treatment while in prison, and that his pregnant wife was beaten by prison authorities on several occasions when she came to visit, resulting in a miscarriage.

If it weren't for the Internet, such communiqués as Njawé's might never reach the attention of human-rights groups, which potentially can act on his behalf, DFN officials conclude. "By using the power of the Internet to circumvent restrictions on free speech, DFN applies pressure on authoritarian regimes that censor materials and violate human rights," DFN officials say.

"Despite continued persecution, these dissidents have continued to speak out, sometimes without knowing the world would hear them," Wong says, adding: The DFN site "guarantees that it will."

Maria Seminerio reported this article.

SMALL TOUCHES



GANDÉE VASANT/TONY STONE

GIVING QUICK ANSWERS TO EXPECTANT PARENTS

www.fensende.com/Users/swnymph

The Pregnancy Ring is my baby," says health and childbirth educator Sabrina Cuddy. She hopes it will help you with yours—your baby, that is. Cuddy's Web page offers information and links to more than 100 sites on pregnancy, childbirth, and early-stage child care. Cuddy says she has been impressed with the breadth and depth of pregnancy information available on the Web. Still, she won't link just any site into the ring: She screens proposed additions and picks only those that are serious and noncommercial. "Average, every-

day people—if they have a question, they can find the answer really fast," Cuddy says.



MAKING THE WORLD SAFER FOR PET FISH

www.fishtalk.com

Uncle Bill, as this site's proprietor calls himself, gets a little testy when people mistreat their tropical fish. "Some people never change the water" in the aquarium, says Bill. "They may as well put the animals in the toilet and not flush." Uncle Bill is here to help. He is the creator of Fish Talk, a site and Webzine lovingly devoted to the care and husbandry of tropical fish. Among the fish he discusses in his weekly columns are the altum angel, the blueheaded heckle discus, and the larger cichlid from South America. The delightful collection of 15 drawings of "tropical freshwater fish seldom seen" includes the lipstick-wearing lolita tetra and the Scottish tuner (with bagpipelike tail fin). Uncle Bill, a Northern California real estate broker by day, also gives tips on how to prepare and cook fresh fish and other meals. There is a breaking-news section, too. Just 1 year old, the site already has had 20,000 visitors. "I just really enjoy teaching people things," Bill says.

HELPING IMMIGRANT TEENS FEEL WELCOME

www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/3239

It's one thing to move to a new apartment, or even a new city. But try moving to a new continent and learning a new language. And as a teenager, no less. Well, hundreds of teens are moving with their families every year to Israel, which has absorbed hundreds of thousands of new Zionist immigrants since 1990. A former developmental psychologist from UCLA who herself immigrated to Israel, Sarale Cohen knows how they feel. She co-founded Teen-to-Teen so teens can chat

with one another. "It's very hard to come here and be thrust into society," Cohen says. "We want to give them a place to express their concerns, their joys, and share with each other."

CONSERVING EARTHLY RESOURCES


www.recycle.net

Paul Roszel calls himself a Recycler Extraordinaire. One look at his site suggests he is worthy of the title. "We must accept the ultimate responsibility to leave future generations with a safe and sound environment and a world that has not been depleted of its resources," he says. Roszel is creator and keeper of Recycler's World, which reminds us to expand our recycling horizons beyond paper and plastic to iron, steel, exotic metals, tires, rubber, and batteries. The site also has a trading section that lets people swap, buy, and sell secondhand industrial goods.



EXTOLLING THE JOYS OF PHILATELY AND ANTARCTICA

www.south-pole.com

Gary Pierson's Web site revolves around a remote place and an even more obscure topic, but visitors come from all corners of the world to check it out. Pierson, a lifelong stamp collector and aficionado of Antarctica, created Antarctic Philately to celebrate not just the South Pole but also its postal history. It uses stamps and the postal history as a rich backdrop against which to examine the history of exploration, politics, and geography of the world's southernmost landmass. "I'm just a very simple man with a very simple high-school education," says Pierson. "I just happen to love Antarctica and its rich history." 



Mercifully, most newsreaders will let you cancel your own Usenet posts.



GARY HOWLAND

FIND IT ONLINE!

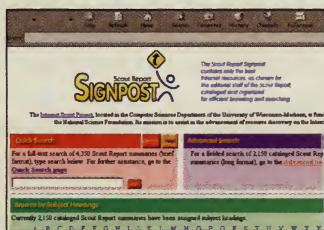
Librarian Indexes: Quality, not Quantity

At first glance, the **Librarians' Index to the Internet** (sunsite.berkeley.edu/InternetIndex) looks like a disheveled version of the Yahoo! directory. But what it lacks in good looks, it makes up for in utility. The searchable index represents years of research by librarians on the Web's most useful information resources. Organized into 43 different category headings and numerous sub-directories, the annotated index selectively catalogs nearly 3,400 links. The index is growing slowly, as librarians from around the country up-

load only the newest and most relevant online resources.

For research purposes, also link over to the **Scout Report Signpost** (www.signpost.org/signpost), a project funded by the National Science Foundation and maintained by the Computer Sciences Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It, too, offers a small but superb annotated A-to-Z

index of Web information resources. Among them are digital art museum sites, online history encyclopedias, and Web-based health clinics.



The Scout Report Signpost is a selective, searchable, and annotated index of useful Web resources.

Simple Answers for Smart People

HOW TO GET THE MOST NET IN THE LEAST TIME

DEAR SURF GURU

Canceling Usenet Posts; Escaping Freeze Frames

I recently posted a message to a newsgroup, and now I'm regretting it. Is there any way to remove it quickly?

Having second thoughts? Perhaps you're back together with your sweetheart and you want to rescind the fiery missive you posted to alt.girlfriend.die.die.die? Mercifully, most newsreaders will let you cancel your own posts. In Netscape Communicator's newsreader (Collabra), simply highlight your post, click on "Edit," and select "Cancel Message." In Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0's newsreader, highlight your post, right-click, and select "Cancel." For all other newsreaders, try following similar steps. For instance, in Free Agent, highlight your post, click on "Message," and select "Cancel Usenet Message." And don't panic if your message doesn't disappear instantaneously. It may take minutes or even hours before the message vanishes.

I keep getting trapped on pages using frames. How can I link out of one of these sites without getting stuck in the frames?

The frustrating code that keeps you framed can be beat. All you have to do is right-click on a link and choose "Open in New Window."

NET LINGO

Shouting

Chatters and Usenet posters will often tell other chatters and posters to "stop shouting." It's another way of saying, "TURN OFF YOUR CAPS LOCK!" In general, chatting and posting in uppercase letters is considered rude.

Net Lingo courtesy of www.netlingo.com

I use Netscape Communicator to compose and send e-mail, but I never know if and when an e-mail has been received. Is there a way to track sent messages?

You can instruct Communicator's Messenger program to send you confirmation after your e-mail has been received. From your in-box, select "Message" and then "New Message." This will take you to the e-mail

"Composition" window. Under the heading "View," select "Options." This will pop open a new tool bar inside your "Composition" window. Within this tool bar, check the "Return Receipt" box.

Got a nagging Net question? E-mail surf guru@zd.com.

Add a new dimension to your
child's education. The third.



The AMD-K6-2 Processor
with 3DNow! Technology

HISTORY OF POWERED FLIGHT PRESENTATION.JPG

File Edit View Image Colors Masks Selections Capture Window Help

Presenting the
next dimension in
PC technology.



amd@work

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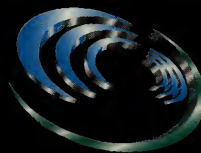
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I N T R O D U C I N G



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E-MAIL BASICS

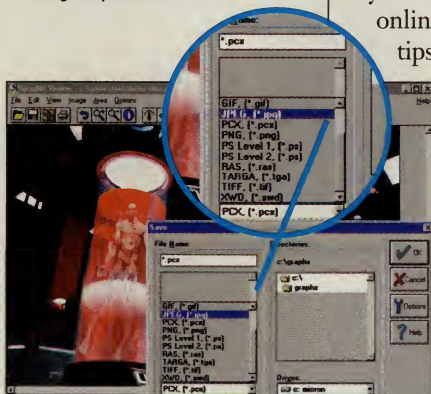
Help! I Can't Open My E-Mail Attachments

You've received an e-mail from a friend with a graphics file attached. The mail's text reads, "Check This Out! Very Funny Stuff." But when you double-click on the attachment, you're confounded by a Windows 95 "Open With" dialog box or a document filled with line after line of electronic gibberish. What's the problem? Your computer is having trouble reading the attachment's file format. If you don't have a program that can read this file—or if you do, but aren't aware of it—you may never get the joke.

That is, unless you have an enhanced viewer, a program capable of opening various file formats. **Quick View Plus 4.5** (www.inso.com/qvp) and **KeyView Pro 6.0** (www.keyview.com) are two such (recommendable) viewers. Both programs can recognize more than 200 different file formats, including word processing documents and popular third-party plug-ins. Trial versions of the programs can be downloaded at the respective company Web sites (and each viewer can also be purchased retail for approximately \$40 to \$50).

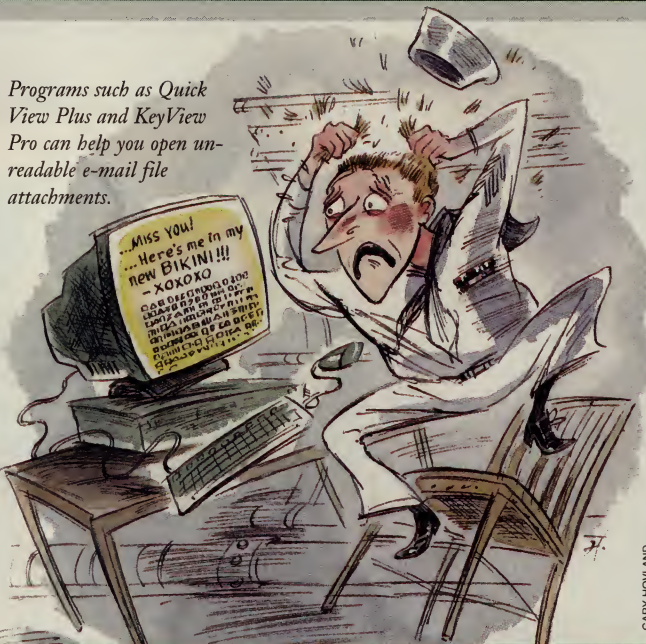
In addition to reading various file formats, KeyView Pro 6.0 can convert graphics files into different formats. In other words, if friends or family are having problems opening the JPEG attachment you e-mailed them, KeyView can convert and e-mail it as a .BMP, .GIF, or .PCX file instead.

Those readers seeking freeware capable of opening and converting graphics files should click over to www.hotfiles.com and run a search on *GraphX*. For a commercial release of the product, click over to the manufacturer's site at www.group42.com.



Group 42's GraphX viewer can help users read and convert most graphical e-mail attachments.

Programs such as Quick View Plus and KeyView Pro can help you open unreadable e-mail file attachments.



GARY HOWLAND

NET REFRESHER

No-Frills Browsing

If your Net connection is extremely slow—or if you're going online only to retrieve sports scores, stock quotes, or health tips—you can gain some speed by turning off your browser's graphics capability for that surf session.

In **Netscape Navigator 3.0**, go to "Options," and uncheck "Auto Load Images." In **Navigator 4.0**, go to "Edit," and then choose "Preferences." Double-click on the "Advanced" category. Uncheck "Automatically load images." In **Microsoft Internet Explorer 3.0**, go to "Preferences," and then choose "Web Content." Uncheck "Show Pictures." In **Explorer 4.0**, go to "View," and then choose "Internet Options." Click on the "Advanced" tab, and uncheck "Show Pictures."

If you want to load a particular image in this graphics-less mode, all you have to do is right-click on it, and choose "Load This Image" or "Show Image."

SECRETS OF THE SERVICE PROVIDERS

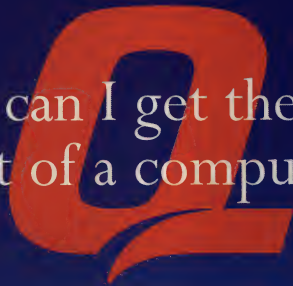
America Online

When busy signals prevent you from logging on to AOL, you have to reenter your password. It's a small irritation that becomes increasingly annoying during peak hours. If no one else has access to your computer, customize your preferences so that you never have to type in your password again. Go to "Members/Preferences/Passwords." Just type in your password for any or all of your account names and hit "OK."

Yahoo! Online

Save and organize your favorite chat-room destinations on the My Yahoo! home page. Start by clicking on "Chats & Boards." Next, click on the gray Edit button and then on an "Available Chatroom" link (e.g., News, Romance, or Science). Highlight a room of interest and click on the Add button. Hit Finished to save your selection. This chat room should now appear on your My Yahoo! home page.

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Gregg, Insight, J&R Computer World, Micro Center, MicroWarehouse, Multiple Zones, Nationwide Computers & Electronics,
Nebraska Mega Mart, Paul Norton, Nobody Beats the Wiz, PC Connection, PC Mall, PC Richard & Son, PC Warehouse, RCS
Computer Experience, Sun TV & Appliances, Inc., Tiger Direct, Tops Appliance City, T-Zone.



EASY ACCESS INTERNET KEYBOARD

Just touch one button on your keyboard, and you're online. Touch another button and you're writing an e-mail to your mom. It's that simple.



POWER/PERFORMANCE

Next-generation Intel processors allow you to experience stunning multimedia along with brilliant graphics and imaging capabilities — all at breathtaking speed.



EXTRA MILE SERVICE

Get comprehensive 7x24 support, both over the phone and online. Plus, keep your PC in peak operating condition with service and anti-virus software updates from the Web.

Buy one of these computers and get 50 free hours on the Net. Plus, sign up for this Compaq Easy Internet Access free trial and get a \$100 rebate on select Compaq Presario minitower or desktop PCs.¹

INTEGRATED MULTIMEDIA NOTEBOOKS

These notebooks have CD-ROM drives and 56K modems² built right in, so you can set up shop anywhere — without carrying around extra equipment.

DIGITAL CREATIVITY IMAGING CENTER

Want to plug in a digital video camera? Hook up a USB gamepad? Connect a scanner? No problem. IEEE 1394 and USB ports for peripherals are on the front of the 5600 series PC for easy access.



Compaq Presario 5030

\$1749
- \$100 mail-in rebate¹

\$1649* (with Monitor)

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 300MHz
- 8.0 GB Hard Drive³
- 100 MB Iomega Zip Built-in™ drive
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 256 MB
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 32X MAX CD-ROM Drive⁴
- 2X AGP Graphics w/2 MB SGRAM
- Creativity Action Center 2 USB/1 Game Port
- Aureal A3D Interactive Sound
- Easy Access Internet Keyboard
- Microsoft® Windows®98
- Presario MV 700 Monitor (15.9" VIA)



Compaq Presario 5610

\$2349
- \$100 mail-in rebate¹

\$2249* (with Monitor)

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 350MHz
- 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive⁵
- 8.0 GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive³
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 100 MB Iomega Zip Built-in™ drive
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 10Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- 2X AGP Card w/4 MB SGRAM
- Digital Creativity Imaging Center w/1394
- PCI Audio with 360° Positional Sound
- Easy Access Internet Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows98
- Presario MV 700 Monitor (15.9" VIA)



Compaq Presario 1650

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Fully loaded, all-in-one design

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 266MHz
- 12.1" TFT Active Matrix Display
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 96 MB
- 4.0 GB Hard Drive³
- 24X MAX CD-ROM Drive⁴ & 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Smart Lilon battery
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 128-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2 MB VRAM
- Easy Access Buttons
- JBL Pro Audio System w/Base Reflex
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PC card slot
- DisqPlay Extended CD Audio play
- Microsoft Windows98

Compaq Presario 5140

\$2549
- \$100 mail-in rebate¹

\$2449* (with Monitor)

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 400MHz
- 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive⁵
- 8.0 GB Hard Drive³
- 96 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 100 MB Iomega Zip Built-in™ drive
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 10Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- 2X AGP Graphics w/4 MB SGRAM
- Creativity Action Center 2 USB/1 Game Port
- Aureal A3D Interactive Sound
- Easy Access Internet Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows98
- Presario MV 700 Monitor (15.9" VIA)

Compaq Presario 5630

\$3399
- \$100 mail-in rebate¹

\$3299* (with Flat Panel Monitor)

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 400MHz
- 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drive⁵
- 12.0 GB Ultra DMA Hard Drive³
- 128 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 384 MB
- 100 MB Iomega Zip Built-in™ drive
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- 10Mbps Ethernet port, Cable Modem Ready
- 2X AGP Card w/4 MB SGRAM
- Digital Creativity Imaging Center w/1394
- PCI Audio with 360° Positional Sound
- Easy Access Internet Keyboard
- Microsoft Windows98
- Presario FP 500 Flat Panel Monitor (14.1" VIA)

Compaq Presario 1655

\$3200*

Fully loaded, all-in-one design

- Intel Pentium II Processor, 266MHz
- 13.3" TFT Active Matrix XGA Display
- 64 MB SyncDRAM expandable to 96 MB
- 4.0 GB Hard Drive³
- 24X MAX CD-ROM Drive⁴ & 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 56K ITU v.90 Modem²
- Smart Lilon battery
- 512 KB L2 Pipeline Burst Cache
- 128-bit Accelerated Graphics w/2 MB VRAM
- Easy Access Buttons
- JBL Pro Audio System w/Base Reflex
- 2 Type II or 1 Type III PC card slot
- DisqPlay Extended CD Audio play
- Microsoft Windows98

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¹50 Free hours of Internet access is offered when Compaq Easy Internet Access is chosen from Compaq Internet Setup. Valid only on selected Presario minitower, desktop, and notebook models. The 50 free hours can be used over a 45-day period, up to 2 hours per day. A valid credit card will be required in order to continue service after the trial period. \$100 mail-in rebate from Compaq upon activation of this free trial of Compaq Easy Internet Access. Valid only on selected Presario desktop and minitower models. Rebate offer valid only in the USA and expires 12/31/98. *Compaq Direct selling price after rebate. Prices shown do not include applicable sales tax and shipping. Products and prices valid in U.S. only. Actual retail price may vary. Not all Compaq Presario models available in all retail stores. 32X MAX CD-ROM data transfer rates may vary from 1800 to 4800Kbps. 11U v.90 modems are designed only to allow faster downloads from K56flex or v.90 compliant digital sources. Maximum achievable download transmission rates are currently unknown, may not reach 56 kilobits per second (Kbps), and will vary with line conditions. 2nd-Generation DVD-ROM Drives run at a higher maximum transfer rate of up to 2.76 MB/s compared to 1st-Generation DVD-ROM Drives which run at a maximum transfer rate of up to 1.348 MB/s. 24X MAX CD-ROM data transfer rates may vary from 1500 to 3600Kbps. *For hard drives, GB = billion bytes. Specifications and prices are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo, and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation.

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EXTRA MILE SERVICE

Every Compaq product comes with a one-year Limited Warranty⁷ and the assurance of our Extra Mile Service, the most comprehensive and flexible PC support available. You'll have access to fast, accurate, 7x24 technical support via the phone or Web – and you can even choose the kind of help and advice you need. The Compaq Service Connection will keep your PC current with free service updates while anti-virus software will protect all your important files and information. Remote access software will enable accurate system diagnosis for quicker call resolution and the Compaq Support Forum provides personal assistance from an online technician.

Take a look into the future with our new digital flat panel monitor.

Looking for a computer with an Intel processor that's custom-built to meet your needs?

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Office Depot
OfficeMax
RadioShack
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Brandsmart USA
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Compaq Presario FP 500

\$999*

- 14.1" Viewable TFT Active Matrix Display
- XGA 1024 x 768 Resolution
- Detachable JBL Pro Speakers (not shown above)
- Integrated Telex[®] Microphone
- Digital Flat Panel (DFP) Interface
- Energy Star Compliant
- Universal Power Supply
- Upgrade to an FP 500 Monitor for the Presario 5030, 5140 and 5610 configurations on the previous page for only \$700 more



Compaq Presario MV 500

\$299*

- 15" Monitor (13.7" VIA)
- .28mm Dot Pitch
- 1024 x 768 MAX Resolution
- Detachable JBL Pro Speakers
- Integrated Telex Microphone
- Digital Controls
- Energy Star Compliant
- Universal Power Supply



Compaq Presario MV 700

\$449*

- 17" Monitor (15.9" VIA)
- .28mm Dot Pitch
- 1280 x 1024 MAX Resolution
- Detachable JBL Pro Speakers
- Integrated Telex Microphone
- Digital Controls
- Energy Star Compliant
- Universal Power Supply
- Upgrade to an MV 700 Monitor for the Presario 5030 configuration on the previous page for only \$150 more

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Software

NetOptimizer (\$39.95)

www.touchstonesoftware.com

Help your computer go to 11! NetOptimizer looks for the fastest connection between your system and the Net.



Newsgroup

alt.consumers.free-stuff

Here you'll find advice on gathering up the giveaways.

Sounds Different

How to Change the Way Your PC Blips and Dings

Just about any sound file you would want—and quite a few you wouldn't—is on the Web somewhere. You can make your PC holler like Tarzan when you turn it on and exclaim "Doh!" like Homer Simpson each time you shut it down. Follow these quick steps to downloading and assigning sound bytes on your computer.

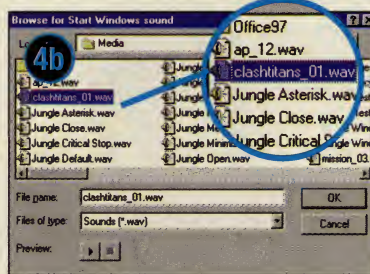
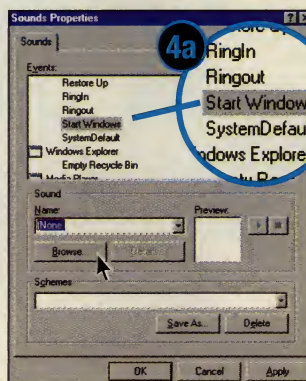
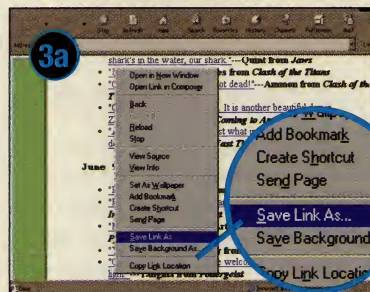
1 Search Yahoo! for *sounds* or *.WAV* files.

Because support for .WAV files was built right into Windows 95, you won't have to add any special hardware or software (such as RealPlayer) to play them.

2 If you can't find a good starting point, we recommend you bookmark the sound-download site **Swingware** (swingware.com/sound/). Scroll through the site's latest sound-clip additions, or browse through the Archive section. To listen to a sound before you download it, left-click on it.

3 OK, you found it! Zeus from *Clash of the Titans* bellowing, "Let loose the Kraken!" Now it's time to get that sound file onto

your computer. **[3a]** Right-click on the sound-file link and choose "Save Link As..." **[3b]** A box will pop up showing the name of the chosen sound file and where it's present-

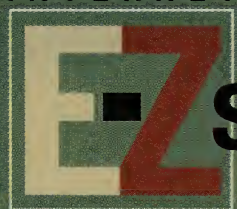


ly going to be saved on your PC. You can change the name of the file (but you must not delete the file extension .WAV). You can also save the file to any folder on your system, but it's a good idea to place it in one called "Media." To get it there, click on the "C:\\" drive in the "Save in" field. Then open the "Windows" folder, followed by the "Media" folder. Now hit "Save."

4 To assign your sound to a computer action or function, click on the Start button. Choose "Settings" and then the "Control Panel." Click on "Sounds." This will open "Sounds Properties." **[4a]** This window will list all of the events to which you can assign your new sound, such as "Start Windows" or "New Mail Notification." Highlight an event, and then click on the Browse button. A new window will pop up and show you the sound files saved in the "Media" folder. **[4b]** Find your desired sound clip, highlight it, and click "OK."

5 After you hit "OK," you'll be taken back to

the "Sounds Properties" window. There, you can test your new sound by clicking on the Play button. Like what you've done? Then hit Apply. —Charles Pappas



shopper SMART BUYS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

PICKS OF THE MONTH BY JACLYN EASTON



Good Enough to Eat

1 Memories of that cannibalistic old witch in *Hansel and Gretel* aside, these edible snapshot cookies (18 for \$33.95) will make their mark on even the snooziest of social events. Cookies are just some of the many unusual items—from coasters to boxer shorts—onto which Picture-Mall will affix an image. (About the “photo”: It’s actually a sheer layer of frosting.)

PictureMall

www.picturemall.com

A Feast of Ramen

2 As a college student, did you consider Oodles of Noodles a primary food group? Ramen-City offers exotic variations on this starchy theme, with noodles in squid, seaweed, and other oceanic flavors. Free shipping, sampler boxes, and attractive discounts add to an already slurpworthy adventure. Sampler 10-packs start at \$8.99.

RamenCity

www.ramencity.com



Sheet Inspiration

3 Long before the karaoke craze, people read sheet music and played pianos or other real instruments—often in the comfort of their own homes. More than 5 million pages of sheet music reside at JumpMusic.com, ranging from such hits as Celine Dion’s “My Heart Will Go On” to standard ballads and TV themes. You’ll also find special versions of songs written for the

flutophone, ukulele, and other rarefied instruments. Prices start at \$3.22, with discounts of up to 30 percent on selected pieces.

JumpMusic.com

www.jumpmusic.com

ASK THE MAVEN

Q. I buy software online fairly regularly, but I’ve never paid sales tax—even to companies within my state. Is this right?

A. It depends on where you live. Some states levy taxes on software, but it’s all contingent upon some fine points of local laws. To learn about the tax codes in your state, visit the **Internet Taxation Table** at www.vertexinc.com/taxcybrary20/CyberTax_Channel/taxtable_72.html.

AT THE AUCTIONS

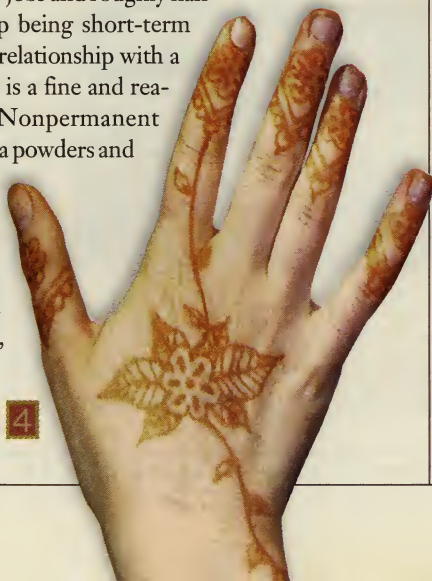
If reading *Into Thin Air* has left you obsessed with snowy heights, don’t miss the ongoing avalanche of mountaineering must-haves at **The Mountain Zone** (www.mountainzone.com/auction). Auction items range from your basic, everyday climbing-gear set to a snazzy pair of Atlas snowshoes. **Recent off-season steal:** a \$370 K2 Jujy Slim 550 snowboard for \$100.

Body Art for the Noncommittal

4 In an age when many jobs and roughly half of all marriages end up being short-term endeavors, a two-week relationship with a tattoo or body painting is a fine and reasonable proposition. Nonpermanent designs made with henna powders and pastes are the perfect antidote to a ho-hum fall wardrobe. The Deluxe Kit (\$42) includes henna, a design booklet, seven stencils, and accessories.

Body Art Supply

www.bodyartsupply.com



I CAN BUY WHAT ON THE NET?

Get Smart Revisited. The pen is mightier than the Pentax where the SSPVP Video Pen is concerned. With a retail price of \$2,595, this fully functional, color-camera-in-a-pen (one of several surveillance solutions found at this site) probably won’t find its way into your home or office budget any time soon—that is, unless you’re conducting covert intelligence operations for an unspecified foreign government.

The Hidden Camera Store

www.hiddencamera.com





metastream

click it.

touch it.

turn it all around.

screaming streaming 3D for the web

www.metastream.com



MetaCreations.

The Visual Computing Software Company



Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

A QUOTE! A QUOTE! MY MICROPAYMENTS FOR A QUOTE!

The Web is quicker, richer, and more sophisticated than when *Y-Life* published its first monthly issue two years ago, and I am better at using it. Why, then, do I feel discontent when once I felt only wonder?

I want to be able to find everything I'm looking for on the Web. I find a lot, but not enough. I am often at the mercy of hobbyists who put up pages in honor of their enthusiasms. I depend, in the words of Tennessee Williams, upon the kindness of strangers.

This morning, for example, I was trying to find a quote from Oscar Wilde. I needed it for my review of the



new Wilde biopic starring Stephen Fry. I am not in Chicago but in Michigan—and therefore not at home with my volumes of Wilde and my latest edition of *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*. I thought I would have no trouble finding the quote on the Web.

Wrong. The version of **BARTLETT'S** available on the Web [www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/bartlett] is copyright 1901, and although Wilde was then a famous man only one year dead, he was also so disreputable that John Bartlett included not one single quote by him. No problem, I thought. Using

METACRAWLER [www.metacrawler.com] and **NORTHERN LIGHT** [www.northernlight.com], I searched for Oscar Wilde quotations. I found some, on personal home pages. I also found a screen saver that could generate a fresh Wilde quote every day, which was too long between quotes for me. I could not find the quote I was looking for.

AMAZON.COM [www.amazon.com] lists collections of Wilde quotes—why aren't they online? The answer, of course, is that the publishers aren't going to give them away for free. Though a great deal is given away on the Web, it is not always what you're looking for.

Doing research on the Web is like using a library assembled piecemeal by pack rats and vandalized nightly. Search engines use blinding speed in order to link you to sources that may be completely wrong. To uncover the best thinking about any subject, you must shuffle through a universe populated by erroneous thinkers, nonthinkers, true believers, rabble-rousers, retailers, and teenagers with way too much time on their hands. Find what you're looking for and bookmark it, and there's a good chance that when you return you'll discover the site has moved, closed down, or is too busy to accept your summons.

Some of these limitations have a certain charm. I am stirred with delight when I come across a Web site that has been gratuitously created out of whole cloth and passion. Looking for information about the Tudor and Stuart monarchies, I went to the first site on the search-engine list ("relevance: 99%") and found a home page produced by a group of schoolchildren in England. And a fine page it was, although I am not sure my editors would be impressed

by a footnote citing 9-year-olds in Wickham, even though they included watercolor portraits of the kings.

I am aware that I can subscribe to the **ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA** site [www.eb.com]. I am aware that **PROJECT GUTENBERG** [gutenberg.net] is no doubt keying in the complete works of Oscar Wilde at this very moment. I am aware that I can get sound, useful information on the Web about what happened today, yesterday, or last month. But what I want is what the British newspaper *News of the World* once promised its readers: "All of human life is here!"

The only answer, of course, is micropayments. Because there are so many things to be searched for and such a large number of places they might be found, subscription sites will not succeed. But if I could find an online book named *The Wit and Wisdom of Oscar Wilde* and plunder it for a quotation, I would gladly pay two cents, a nickel, or perhaps even a dime for the privilege.

Micropayments would be an incentive for publishers to put entire libraries and databases on the Web. That wouldn't hamper book sales, because before I'd search for—and pay five cents individually for—dozens of different Wilde quotations, I'd buy the damn book.

Micropayments are the obvious future economic foundation of the Web. They add up to macropayments. Save up your pennies and nickels, boys and girls, and your dimes and dollars will take care of themselves, as someone (*Bartlett's* 1901 doesn't know who) once said. Backstage at the recent GII Web Awards, I ran into an executive from Citibank who promised me that Web micropayments were coming my way "sooner rather than later."

It can't be soon enough for me.



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Balancing Acts

TIME TO PUSH OUR OWN CONTROL KEYS

According to researchers at the University of Cincinnati, it's now pretty clear that the "Net addiction" hoo-ha was, if not entirely baseless, way overblown. Turns out that many folks reporting "Net addiction" were also in the grip of such actual psychiatric conditions as manic-depression and impulse-control disorder. They had already been diagnosed; some were even using the Net as a safer, "substitute" addiction. In other words, it's not the Net causing the trouble; the people in question were troubled when they got to the Net.

So let's lay the myth of the Big Bad Addictive Net to rest. See the wacky stuff—seven-day MUDDing sessions with no sleep, broken relationships, lost jobs, all those man-bites-dog Net-abuse situations we've read and heard about—for what it is: a sign that the individuals so afflicted are pretty screwed up. If this is happening to you, you need professional help. Got it? Because something's very wrong, and you're using the Net to feed that wrong thing. Confront the real problem. Log off. Go.

That leaves the rest of us. And we are not addicted or compulsive or subject to overwhelming impulses to diminish ourselves. I'm here to set some standards for us—to clarify that which may have become foggy, which is that the Net is first, foremost, and finally only a tool for and servant of its users. Here's how we're going to reassert our dominance over it in our lives. Raise your mousing hand and repeat after me:

[1] *We will use e-mail to enhance, not obscure, our communications.*

It's good to use the Net to keep in

touch with folks when a call or visit isn't feasible. It's not good to use e-mail to hide from folks—your family, your friends, your editor-in-chief (that may be my personal problem). Know when to unplug the modem and dial the phone.

[2] *We will assume that whoever's reading our electronic emissions is both human and well-meaning.*

I get a certain amount of e-mail from people who have experienced trouble with our Web site or with a subscription. I have faith that practically all of these correspondents are lovely, lovely people with nice manners and a pleasant demeanor in public. So it pains me to read the abusive e-mail sent to our general-delivery address. Since most people calm down immediately upon being answered by a live human, I assume that they thought their mail was being read by an unlive unhuman. Don't assume. There's always plenty of time to be rude later. If you're polite and you do reach a bot, what have you lost?

[3] *We will treat chat with the same sense of its import and gravity as we treat cocktail-party conversation.*

Enjoy it, but don't linger; if someone's upsetting you, move on. Engaging in prolonged flaming is equivalent to following someone around a room picking fights. Step away from the vehicle, please. (For you married people, by the way, this rule also extends to hot chat. Flirting—where neither party takes it past a certain point, and nothing is said or done that would hold up in divorce court—is reasonable between consenting adults. If other chatters are telling you and your chat partner to go to a private

chat room, it may be time to spot-check your relationship with the flesh-and-blood object of your affection.)

[4] *We will use common sense when reading anything on the Net, and we will teach our children to apply same.*

Both you and your children are going to need excellent B.S. detectors to make it in the twenty-first century. Better get started. You cannot Make Money Fast on the Net. Your teenage son is not in chat with Tyra Banks. The Good Times virus doesn't exist. And just as you looked up dirty words in the dictionary, your kids are going to sneak a peek at some spicy stuff, with probably the

**ENGAGING IN PROLONGED
FLAMING IS EQUIVALENT
TO FOLLOWING SOMEONE
AROUND THE ROOM PICKING
FIGHTS. STEP AWAY FROM
THE VEHICLE, PLEASE**

same life-changing results. Deal. Parent, for Pete's sake.

[5] *We are the ones with the opposable thumbs, and we are the ones who operate the on/off switch.*

Don't blame the Net if you won't disconnect. Yes, it most certainly does move fast. But just as one can know a river without seeing every drop of water flow past, you have to let the Net move without you sometimes. The world won't end if some e-mail goes unanswered or a Usenet thread gets dropped.

What did I miss? Send me your suggestions, and I'll include the best of them in a future column. **Y**

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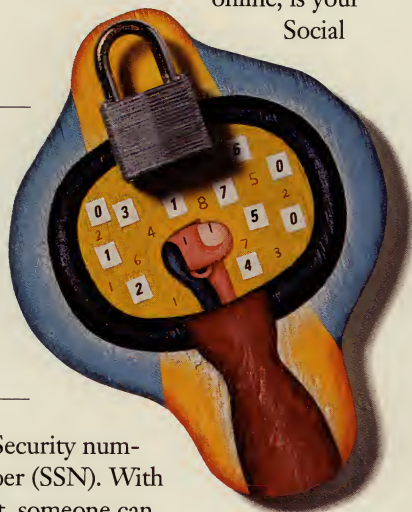


Don't Become a Case of Taken Identity

ONLINE, THERE'S LITTLE SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Last month we alerted readers to identity theft, a situation in which someone appropriates the data that makes you "you" in the eyes of the government, banks, stores, credit card companies, and credit bureaus. ID theft isn't new, but it has taken on a new twist, raising several thorny questions: Does the Internet, with its vast and cheap opportunities for trespassing on personal privacy, make ID theft too simple? If it does, should *you* worry about it? And what can you do to protect yourself?

The key to any ID thievery, off- or online, is your Social



Security number (SSN). With it, someone can unlock your driving records, credit reports, and more. Having assembled a dossier of this data, an ID thief can readily impersonate you and will generally spend as much of your money as he or she can—as quickly as possible.

There are places online where someone can pay to find out your SSN. In fact, the Net is full of them. ID thieves can equip themselves in no time at such sites as **DEEP DATA** [www.deepdata.com], which for \$20 will locate an SSN using various public records; and **DIG DIRT** [www.digdir.com], where \$14 will buy a

Driver Abstract that provides a person's birth date, home address, and driver's license number—which is often the same as his or her SSN.

It should be noted that Deep Data, Dig Dirt, and similar databases are entirely legal and have an array of legitimate uses. What's more, the information they provide could also be obtained (with a bit more time and effort) from an in-person search of public records at a local courthouse or town hall.

For the most part, it's the sites that needlessly make SSNs available at no cost where what's legal starts crossing over into what's asking for trouble.

Safety Net's investigation found site after site where these numbers are put online for all to see. Universities, for example, commonly post grades online—and then pair them not with the students' names but with their SSNs. Résumés posted online often include an SSN. Databases linking to the Social Security Death Index can be another rich source. And the Securities and Exchange Commission's **EDGAR DATABASE OF CORPORATE INFORMATION** [www.sec.gov/edgarhp.htm] contains the SSNs of many company heads.

To see what it would take to assemble a dossier, I began by browsing through a list of the 400 richest Americans at **FORBES DIGITAL TOOL** [www.forbes.com]. I then searched EDGAR for references that included any of the listed names along with their SSNs. After copying one multimillionaire's name and SSN into my PC's clipboard, I clicked over to another public-records site, pasted the info into an online form, and purchased a trace on the number. (The trace service is ostensibly designed to help you "see if anyone else is using your Social Security Number," but there appears to

be nothing preventing you from tracing anyone's number.) Armed with some home-address info to help flesh out my impersonation, all I'd need to do is get a mail drop and start ordering credit cards. It was that easy.

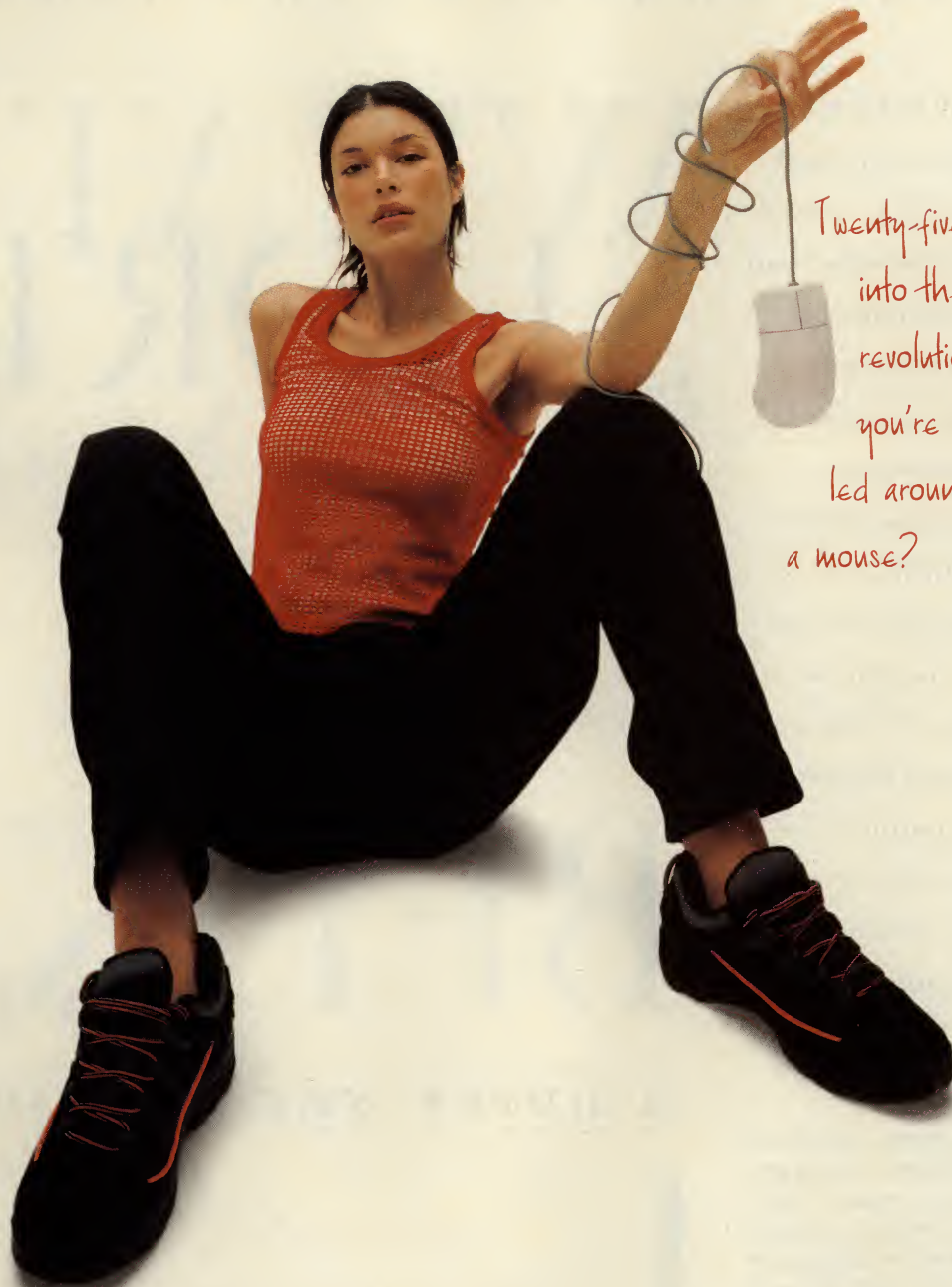
Should you be tearing your hair out in panic? No. The numbers that define our lives are widely available off-line, and could be filched from these public sources, too. But they're rarely stolen—rarely, at least, in proportion to how easy they are to find.

Nonetheless, you can, and should, minimize the chances that your personal data will show up online. Never include these numbers in a newsgroup posting, e-mail message, or online résumé. If your school posts grades online, make sure your SSN isn't put up as well.

Indeed, you should use your SSN "only when you absolutely have to: for example, on tax forms and for banking," says Beth Givens, director of the **PRIVACY RIGHTS CLEARINGHOUSE** [www.privacyrights.org]. "If someone does use your Social Security number, call the bank. If necessary, cancel your savings and checking accounts and/or credit cards, and get new ones that'll have new numbers."

Legislation is in the works that would make ID theft a federal crime. Until then, the burden is largely on you to keep your identity safe. If you have reason to think someone's posing as you, contact the major credit bureaus: **EQUIFAX** [www.equifax.com; 800-525-6285], **EXPERIAN** [www.experian.com; 800-301-7195], and **TRANS UNION** [www.transunion.com; 800-680-7289]. Tell them what's happening. Ask that a fraud alert be put on your account and insist that you be contacted to verify all applications for credit in your name. Follow up in writing. It's the only way to keep you safe from "you."





Twenty-five years
into the computer
revolution and
you're still being
led around by
a mouse?



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PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

WHEN ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL threw his voice into the next room, that wasn't the birth of the Net. When UNIVAC clattered and labored and, at length, calculated, that wasn't the birth of the Net. Even when Rand Corp. sketched out a decentralized, nuclear war-resistant computer communications system in 1964—and even when the government's Advanced Research Projects Agency realized those plans in 1969 with ARPANET—the Net was still only a twinkle in the diodes of the nation's mainframes. There was no spam. No flame wars. No search engines. No Web. At what point, then, did the modern Net emerge from this tangle of wires and good intentions? And how did it grow from a wartime last resort into the wonderfully chaotic, commerce-meets-subcult behemoth it is today? Buckle your seat belts and get ready for *our* history.

>>1971

Mail Bonding: Researcher Ray Tomlinson sends the first e-mail. Using a program called SNDMSG, he fires off a brief missive...to himself on another computer. "Its content," he recalls, "was completely forgettable—probably 'qwertyuiop' or 'Testing 1-2-3.'" The Electronic Messaging Association currently predicts that by 2000, the annual volume of e-mail will climb to 6 trillion messages.

>>1972

Lovely Lenna, Printer Maid: Lenna Sjooblom poses as the November *Playboy* Playmate. A particular photo of her strikes the fancy of folks working on image compression (i.e., techniques for decreasing the file size of digitized photos—a process critical to sending graphics efficiently over the Net). For the next 26 years, Sjooblom's photo is a standard for research in the field.

>>1974

Make Room for Daddy: First recorded use of the word *Internet*, by Vinton Cerf in a research paper outlining

WHAT A
SHORT,
STRANGE
TRIP
IT'S
BEEN...

A BRIEF NET HISTORY

How brief a history?
Well, it's been a short time
only as long as you're counting
in *normal* years.
This is the Internet, Jake

BY ANGELA GUNN & CHARLES PAPPAS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE O'HERLIHY

FATHER OF THE NET
Vinton Cerf establishes paternity by
giving it a name: the Internet

Transmission Control Protocol, or TCP. This common "language," which all computers on the Net would eventually use, enables one computer to speak to any other anywhere in the world. For this and other contributions, MCI's Cerf comes to be known as the Father of the Internet.

>>1977

List Horizons: TheoryNet links 100 researchers via e-mail. This could be considered the first mailing list. It is almost definitely the origin of the late-twentieth-century mating/war cry: "Did you get my e-mail?"

>>1979

Argue Is the Operative Word: Graduate students Tom Truscott, Jim Ellis, and Steve Bellovin create Usenet, the collection of text-based online discussion groups (now numbering more than 50,000) in which millions of participants talk and argue about everything from *bionet.neuroscience* to *alt.conspiracy.abe-lincoln*.

>>1980

CIS, Boom, Bye: Evolving from a private computer system in 1970, the entity that is to become CompuServe (CIS) is bought by H&R Block, which eventually transforms it into a commercial online service provider. (Unable to keep pace with America Online, it is sold to AOL in 1997.)

Voulez-Vous Taper Avec Moi?: The French launch Minitel, a text-only system accessible through "dumb terminals" supplied by the phone company. Originally intended to provide directory assistance and business information, Minitel almost immediately turns into a giant non-stop "hot chat." Having pioneered the Net in their own special way, the French evidence little interest in its progress for the next decade.

>>1981

Caverns Measureless to Man: Ted Nelson envisions Xanadu—a pay-per-use hypertext database of all information. Like the Coleridge

poem echoed by the name, the plan goes unfinished. But what's there is a doozy.

>>1982

Just Kidding—Really: The once inescapable Have-a-Nice-Day Happy Face of the '70s migrates to Net. Because of the medium's typographic limitations, these *smileys*—also known as *emoticons*—help users express feelings and vocal inflections, such as :-) for happiness, :-(for unhappiness, and, as Dave Barry would later propose, >8-O-(&) for the personal realization that one has a tapeworm.

>>1984

Ad Nauseam: Online service Prodigy is founded. Dubbed Trintex at first, it doesn't actually launch until 1988, positioning itself as a shopping, information, and entertainment service for everyday folks. Many users are annoyed by ads flashing along bottom third of screen. (Years later, AOL would thrash Prodigy while running ads that splash across the entire screen.)

FIRST SQUEEZE
Playmate gatefold becomes test for
graphics compression



Here, FidoNet: The computer bulletin-board system (BBS) comes of age, offering chat, gaming, threaded discussions, software downloads, and e-mail from system to system. The first BBS was RCPM, founded in Chicago in 1978.

>>1985

Cybersurfeit: William Gibson writes the science-fiction classic *Neuromancer* and coins the word *cyberspace*. This sparks an unfortunate rash of copycat *cyber*-coinages—everything from *cyberSWAT* teams to *cyberfunerals* to *cybercreeps*.

Off to a Com Start: The first .com domain name is registered: Symbolics.com, a maker of hardware and software designed for running the computer language Lisp.

You've Got Mail (and Busy Signals): America Online is founded. A hybrid of such smaller entities as Quantum Computer Services and Promenade, it spends its early life with seven



content areas, state-by-state news feeds, and very limited graphics (including editorial cartoons and weather maps).

>>1986-87

By Any Other Name: Usenet newsgroups are reorganized into such current "hierarchies" as *comp* (computer-related), *news* (news-related), and *misc* (miscellaneous), with the goal of making things more orderly and efficient. *Flame wars*—vicious online exchanges marked by escalating insults—erupt between those who support this "Great Renaming" and those who don't.

>>1987

Alt Together Now: John Gilmore and Brian Reid, still dissatisfied with Usenet naming, cocreate the *alt* hierarchy, destined to be the largest of all Usenet hierarchies. First groups: *alt.test*, *alt.config*, *alt.drugs*, and *alt.gourmand*.

>>1988

Infectious Laughter: The first major virus hoax—the "2400-baud modem virus"—spreads over the Net, threatening to trash hard disks. The hoax persists despite a humorous counterstrike from computer scientist Robert Tappan Morris Sr. To avoid it, he jokingly advises: "Don't read messages. Not even this one!"

That's My Boy!: Robert Tappan Morris Jr. sends his own destructive program—the infamous Internet Worm—out over the Net, disrupting 10



percent of the 60,000 computer hosts on the Internet. This time, no joke.

Collect the Whole Set: To the list of *alt* news-groups is added *alt.sex*. Creator Brian Reid notes that because the system now includes *alt.sex* and *alt.drugs*, it becomes "artistically necessary" to create *alt.rock-n-roll*. And so he does.

Chat Trick: Jarkko Oikarinen invents Internet Relay Chat (IRC), making real-time communication possible over the Net via specific "channels" (designated by the #prefix), each of which is devoted to a particular topic. It's likely that Oikarinen was aiming higher than #HairyWomen, one of the thousands of IRC channels operating today.

>>1990

Get Well Soon: Stricken with cancer, 9-year-old Craig Shergold receives 16 million cards as word circulates on the Net that he wants to enter the *Guinness Book of World Records* for Most Greeting Cards Received.

Whole Wheat or Wry?: At the INTEROP trade show, John Romkey connects a kitchen appliance to the Net, allowing it to be operated remotely. Dubbed the Internet Toaster, it remains the last known interesting trade-show exhibit.

Only Connect: Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau conceive the World Wide Web. The underlying structure, "hypertext," enables authors to link and combine words, pictures, and sounds. Begun as a way to give physics researchers global access to research-related material on the Internet, it leads eventually to such edifying pages as American Flatulators.

>>1992

Board Silly: Writer Jean Armour Polly, casting about for a title for an article about the Internet, stares at a mouse pad depicting a surfer riding a big wave. "Eureka," she says, and her phrase "surfing the Net" enters the vernacular.

R U MorF?: The term *cybersex* is coined—perhaps as a shorter way of saying, "Honey, why do you

spend so much time on the compEWWW!"

>>1993

Click Transit: Mosaic, the first graphics-friendly Net browser, is released, igniting a popular rush to the Internet and World Wide Web. Traffic explodes at an annual rate of 341,634 percent. Credited for developing it: Marc Andreessen, Eric Bina, and the team at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) in Urbana, Illinois.

Bunker Mentality: Mike Godwin of the Electronic Frontier Foundation wearily notes that almost all online discussions will eventually degenerate until one or more participants are compared to Hitler and/or Nazis, signaling the end of the thread. This absolute truth is enshrined as Godwin's Law.

Invasion of the Newbies: The terms *Netizen*, *information superhighway*, and *URL* creep into the mass media, which continue to mistake the Internet for a part of AOL. Netheads, who were still grappling with the idea that anyone was paying attention in the first place, succumb to despair.

Unchain My E-Mail: The "Turn \$5 into \$50,000!" e-mail chain letter, signed by the mythical Dave Rhodes, achieves ubiquity. Rhodes, rumored to be a college student in Maryland who used his school's Internet account to post the scam in 1988, claims his scheme (also known as the "Make Money Fast!" letter) netted him \$400,000. Other online chain letters since have carried his name—as have any number of pin-filled voodoo dolls.

MSinformation: During the newest Windows

NYET HEAD
Russian Internet bank robber
Vladimir Levin paves the way

launch, a Microsoft representative tells a reporter that "most people will never need modems that go faster than 2,400bps."

Hue and Cry: *Wired* magazine launches, making the world of nerds and geeks suddenly fashionable—if a little hard on the eyes.

>>1994

Yahoo! Indeed: David Filo and Jerry Yang start Yahoo! as a way to track their personal interests online, which include golf and sumo wrestlers. Within four years, their personal interests have expanded to the entire world, plus their sumo-size stock portfolios.

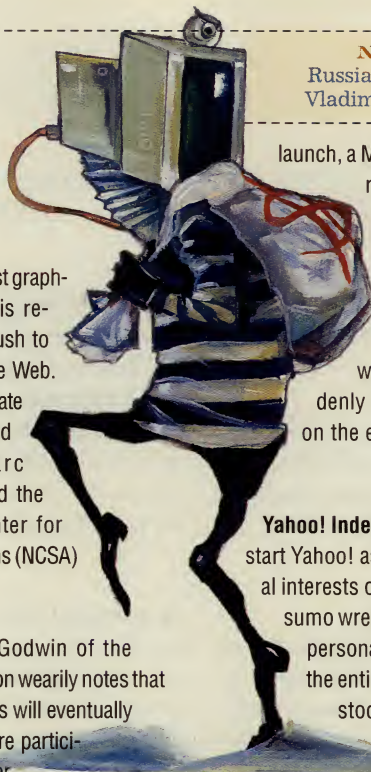
Daily Grind: Glenn Davis, recovering from a work injury, creates his Cool Site of the Day award. During the next four years, both the word *cool* and the "X of the day" concept will be hammered into the ground.

"This Is a Clickup!": Instead of relying on a gun and a mask, mathematician Vladimir Levin of St. Petersburg, Russia, uses his computer and the Net to help himself to \$12 million of Citibank's money. Levin is sentenced to three years in prison in 1998, but only \$400,000 of the cash was ever recovered. Sales reps at Amazon.com, CDnow, and Danni's Hard Drive have no comment.

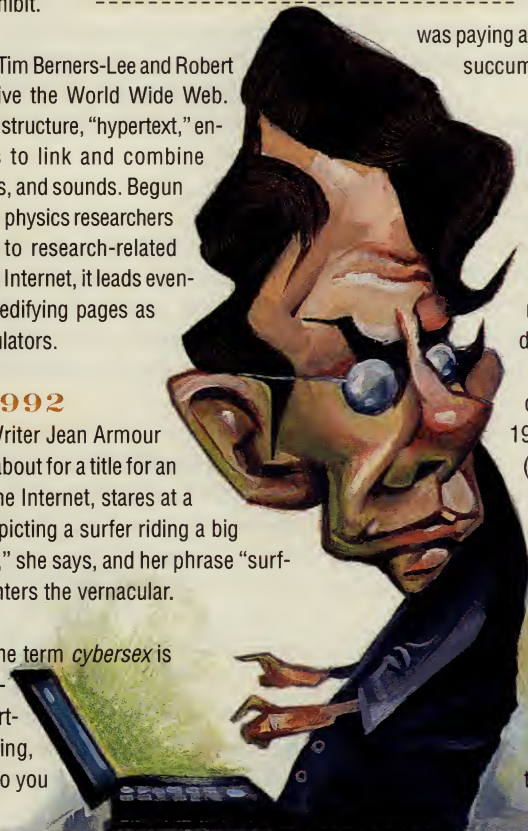
Green Cards and Spam: Canter & Siegel, an Arizona law firm, slings "spam" online to promote its green-card lottery services—igniting a ferocious debate over force-fed mass advertising on Usenet. Little did Netheads realize that e-mail spam was just around the corner. (Ironically, the "service" C&S was advertising—filling out a simple form—required no legal assistance.)

Capital Ideas: Jaron Lanier—virtual-reality pioneer and winner of the Best Hair on the Net Lifetime Achievement Award—pens a "modest proposal" for the future of the Web containing instructions on "How to Make a Few Billion Dollars, Defeat Microsoft, and Do a Favor for the Future of Culture."

Hay D00dz!: AOL gives its users Usenet access. As a result, Usenet is plagued for months by confused newbies asking if Usenet is a new part of AOL and otherwise behaving badly.



CYBER-YADA-YADA
William Gibson coins *cyberspace*,
lives to see us regret it



The Hole Truth: Rock star Courtney Love, in mourning after the suicide of husband Kurt Cobain, becomes the first celebrity to plunge into Usenet without the veil of anonymity. Her messages in *alt.music.courtney-love*—defusing rumors, arguing, ranting—are cited as definitive proof that no one was ever held back in life by poor spelling.

>>1995

Battle of the Brands:

Netscape Navigator is released. Created by Marc Andreessen, Mosaic's co-father, Navigator quickly grabs 70 percent of the browser market. The company, however, undergoes a speedy name change from Mosaic Communications Company just before getting sued by Mosaic's copyright holders. The same irate copyright holders later sell their technology to, among others, Microsoft. The browser wars between Netscape and Microsoft begin.

Where's the Antenna?: RealAudio appears. Its "streaming" technology revolutionizes Net listening and heralds the era of music on demand. In the short term, though, users gain a fresh appreciation for the clarity and nuance of AM radio.

Keeping It Clean, Part 1: AOL's software forbids use of the word *breast*—until protesting subscribers point out that discussing breast cancer would become difficult. Oddly enough, the filtering software that gets the vapors over the word *breast* doesn't mind such screen names as Assman, Ne1up46d9, SnotBoy, and Fartyfreak.

See You Anon: The Church of Scientology declares war on Johan Helsingius, proprietor of the Finnish anonymous remailer *penet.fi*, for protecting a user who criticized the church and Net-published various of its religious documents (which the church claims are "trade secrets"). In 1996, pressured by the Finnish courts to reveal the name of the user, Helsingius closes up shop on the world's most

popular anonymous remailer, which he founded as a response to political persecution.

>>1996

Keeping It Clean, Part 2: The Telecommunications Reform bill, saddled with the Communications Decency Act (which would impose fines of up to \$100,000 and two years in jail for sending "offensive material" over the Net), passes the Senate and House. In protest, Web sites black out their pages for up to 48 hours—a move some designate as "a thousand points of darkness." President Clinton signs the bill into law.

It's Click vs. Click:

Bridging the gap between television and computers, WebTV systems are introduced. In-home couch warfare over control of the remote reaches epic proportions.

Boot Up, Log On, Tune In:

Cybermourners watch as Timothy Leary—West Point cadet, Harvard psychologist, '60s spokesman, LSD philosopher, and irrepressible prankster—

charts his upcoming death on his Web site. (Some trips are longer and stranger than others.)

>>1997

"Web? You Mean Hubbell?": President Clinton mentions the Internet in a State of the Union address for the first time—though at this point he has still not logged on himself.

Keeping It Clean, Part 3: The U.S. Supreme Court throws out the Communications Decency Act.

Boy, Have You Got Mail: Cured of cancer and 33 million cards later,

A MOM'S STORY

Mother plans birth online, then goes straight to jail

Craig Shergold still receives 20,000 cards per week, thanks to an eternally circulating Net plea.

What the HAL?: A computer called Deep Blue beats chess master Garry Kasparov at his own game. It is noted that although Deep Blue played only slightly better than its human opponent, its interpersonal skills were much, much better than those of the average chess master.

>>1998

Cuckoo for Koko Puffs: Some 20,000 users log on to witness the first interspecies online chat—only to see Koko the gorilla dismiss questions about King Kong and Darwin with such pronouncements as "Food and smokes" and "I like drinks." Observers note that this actually reflects an improvement over the content of most AOL chats.

Courting Controversy: The U.S. Department of Justice sues Microsoft, launching a new antitrust era. Alleged cause: the Net browser. Actual cause: Janet Reno got so confused by the last Microsoft investigation she switched to pencil and paper.

Sorry 'bout That: Sanford Wallace, self-proclaimed king of junk e-mail, announces he's hanging it up, and apologizes. Most folks, however, are too busy wading through "Make Money Fast!" spammage to hear the good news.

At Last, the Birth of the Net: Elizabeth Ann Oliver, 40, claims first "live Internet birth." (Amazingly, this "first" is disputed by others.) After thousands log on, Mom recovers, then goes to jail when it turns out she's wanted for kiting checks. As this issue went to press, "Mike" and "Diane," supposedly inspired by the live birth, claimed they would lose their virginity and Webcast it, live. A hoax? On the Net, anything can happen—and often does.

LEARY IN THE SKY
Tim Leary orchestrates his death online, then has his ashes shipped into space



BY RON BEL BRUNO

THE BIG PICTURE

You may know the neighbors,
but what can you say about the
lives and habits of the 51.7
million Americans who are
surfing the Net along with you?

AMERICA & THE NET BY NUMBERS

Unless you live next door to the reclusive J.D. Salinger, it's pretty easy to get the skinny on your typical neighbor sooner or later. Getting the lowdown on citizens of your secondary community of residence, the Net, is a more difficult mission—one we accepted for this special issue. Are surfers more affluent than the average American? Better educated? More likely to be single? In some ways, as this compilation shows, they're not much different from the folks across the street or the people you pass on your way to work. Yet in other ways, surfers are a breed apart.

IF THE U.S. NET POPULATION* WERE...

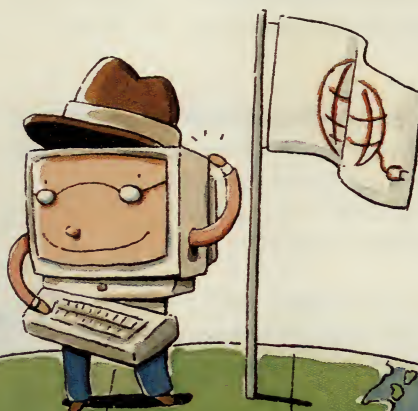
A STATE

It would dwarf top-ranked California (pop. 32,268,301).

A COUNTRY

It would rank 22nd, behind France and ahead of the Ukraine.

*based on Cyber Dialogue's U.S. Net population count of 51.7 million



RACE IN SPACE: NOT QUITE A MOSAIC

87%

of surfers are white (vs. 84% of all Americans).

5.5%

are African-American (vs. 12%).

7%

are Asian (vs. 3%).

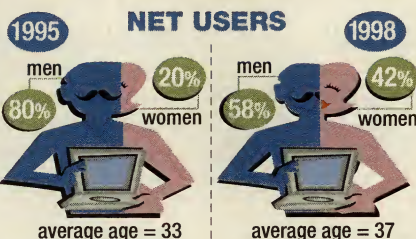
5%

are "other," or didn't specify (vs. 1%).

Source: Simmons Market Research Bureau

HE TYPES; SHE TYPES; THEY'RE BOTH OLDER

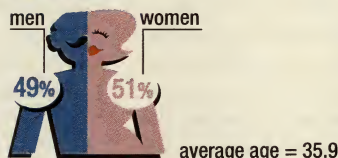
The Net is 58% male and 42% female (vs. the overall U.S. gender breakdown of 49% male, 51% female). More women are joining the fray every year (in 1995, they accounted for only 20% of Net users).



The Net is also getting older, not younger. The average surfer is 37 years old—1.1 years older than the average American in 1997.

Sources: Cyber Dialogue; Information Please Almanac 1998

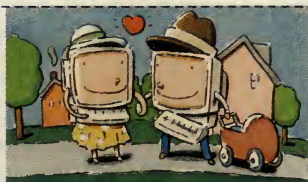
USA OVERALL



ALL ABOUT E-MAIL

Eight out of 10 Net surfers "do" e-mail—and they like it: 70% of them say that it's "easier and faster than any other form of communication," while 68% feel it helps them keep in touch with people they might not otherwise contact. OK, so e-mail's a great social medium, but does it get the work done? That's less clear, since only 43% of surfers report they would be "less productive" without it. Hmmmm.

Source: ZD InternetTrak



LOOKING TO PAIR UP?

If you're seeking a spouse online, it might take some work: 62% of Net users are married (vs. 56% of the overall U.S. population); 30% are single and have never married (vs. 23%); and 7% are divorced (vs. 9%).

Sources: Cyber Dialogue; U.S. Census Bureau

TEENS HAVE US BEAT

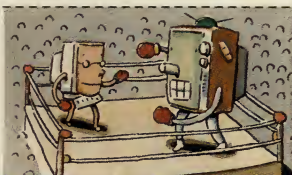
66%

of the country's teens are online, while only...

30%

of American adults use the Net.

Sources: Simmons Market Research; Intelliquist



ARE WE HOOKED YET?

64% of Net surfers watch television and/or use their VCRs less as a result of being online.
48% say they read less.
29% say they sleep less.
26% spend less time with family and friends.

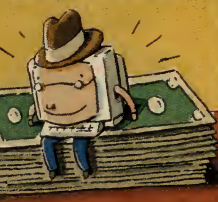
Source: Strategis Group

HOME SWEET NET HOME

59%

of American Net surfers say home is their primary surf spot, 24% claim work is, and 11% cite school as their most likely Web command post.

Source: Intelliquist



A BETTER-HEELED 'HOOD

At \$47,900, the median Net-user household income is \$12,408 higher than the national median household income of \$35,492. But with declining PC prices removing some of the Net's former economic barriers, Net-user median income has declined \$4,700 since 1995.

Sources: Cyber Dialogue; Economic Statistics Briefing Room at www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/income.html

THE HIGHER-EDUCATION LOWDOWN

43%

of Net users have at least a bachelor's degree (vs. 16% of the overall U.S. population). In 1996, this number was 47%. As the Net's socioeconomic level approaches the overall national average, fewer college graduates are found among its ranks.

Sources: Cyber Dialogue; U.S. Census Bureau



SHOPPERS' DELIGHTS

30% of adult surfers made purchases online last year.

41% of surfers' transactions were made with a Visa card.

9% of surfers' transactions were made with an American Express card.

Rank of software among goods sold online last year: 1

The median reported spending amount of online consumers: \$300

Sources: Cyber Dialogue; ZD InternetTrak

THE SMALL-BUSINESS REPORT

72%

of American small businesses use e-mail for customer contact.

48% operate a Web site.

28% now sell goods or services online.

Source: Cyber Dialogue

WHAT WE'RE DOING

Top 10 Online Activities

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Browse the Web 92% | 6 Get business/work information 65% |
| 2 Send/receive e-mail 88% | 7 Get travel information 63% |
| 3 Get information about a hobby or personal interest 87% | 8 Download and save pictures or images 60% |
| 4 Get product/service information 81% | 9 Look up events (concerts, movies, etc.) 58% |
| 5 Read news 74% | 10 Check the weather 56% |

Source: Intelliquist

No One Ever Got Fired For Choosing IBM...

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OK, Value America has a great price. But *total cost of ownership* is the real issue. IBM's business computers are built to maximize your bottom line. IBM technology has made it possible to dramatically reduce downtime. "Great!" you say. "How?" you ask.



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Networked IBM PC300s feature systems that virtually eliminate the need for a technician to visit the PC to keep it running perfectly. Set up, service and software distribution can all be done remotely, along with performance tuning, resource monitoring and security manage-

ment. Maintenance can be done at four o'clock in the morning from another continent if you like. It's all achieved with such innovative technologies as Wake on LAN, LAN Client Control Manager (LCCM), Client NetFinity Manager, CoSession and DMI compliance. IBM's S.M.A.R.T drives even warn you of potential component failures before they happen...so you can

keep your business up and running.



Monitor sold separately.

The Lone Ranger?

Even all by itself, this is an impressive business workhorse. Starting with an Intel® Pentium® Processor with MMX technology running at 166MHz, the PC 300PL boasts 32MB of RAM, affordably expandable to an astounding 384MB. Its Matrox Mystique 220 graphics card, 2MB of video RAM and 512KB of L2 cache mean this is one machine that can handle the most intense office applications. But this PC is gregarious by design: it comes with integrated 10/100 Ethernet capability, so it's ready for your network, right out of the box.

PC 300PL BUSINESS PC

6592-16U-CD

- Intel® Pentium® Processor With MMX Technology
- 166MHz
- Mini Tower with 6 Open Slots & 4 Open Bays
- 32MB EDO RAM
- 2.5 GB S.M.A.R.T. Hard Drive
- 2MB Video RAM
- 512KB Pipeline Burst L2 Cache
- 24X Creative Labs CD-ROM
- 10/100 Integrated Ethernet
- Lotus Smart Suite, Windows 95
- 3 Year IBM Warranty

\$699



Pavilion



Monitor sold Separately.

Pavilion



Monitor sold Separately.



DJ722C

IBM



G52

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Flex some serious multimedia muscle with the Pavilion 8280. Its DVD player unlocks huge entertainment potential.

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- Premium Polk Audio Speakers
- Software: Quicken by Intuit, Microsoft Encarta 98 Encyclopedia and more

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- 9 ppm/5 in color

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- 13.7" Viewable

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M70 17" Monitor

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- 15.7" Viewable

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- 13.7" Viewable

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G72 17" FST Color Monitor

- .28 Dot Pitch, 1024 x 768 Resolution
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IBM 100/10 Ethernet Card

- Your choice

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Leader Of The Pack

IBM's ThinkPad is the notebook leader, and the 700 Series is the top of the line, with features, power and flexibility that make it the first choice for mobile computing. IBM's Estimated Reseller Price for the ThinkPad 765D is \$4999. So who's watching the store, anyway?... Actually, with values like this, *everybody* is!

A Better Place To Think

With the 765's impressive specs, you might think we're describing a big tower computer, but this one's only 7.7 pounds light, and 2.2" thin. Makes you wonder why you need a desktop computer at all, doesn't it?

The Secret Ingredient

There's more to the ThinkPad's appeal than hot specs and a big screen. Like flexible architecture. IBM's UltraBay is the industry's most comprehensive modular design. It allows you to hot-swap components to suit one purpose one minute, and change your mind (and your configuration) the next... or to travel light. UltraBay means versatility!

ThinkPad 765D

9546-U9H

The big, bright 13.3" active matrix display has a viewable image that's actually *larger* than a conventional 14" monitor's.

- Intel® Pentium® Processor with MMX Technology, 166 MHz
- 32MB EDO RAM, Expandable to 104MB
- 3GB EIDE Hard Drive
- 13.3" TFT Active Matrix Color Display
- 1024 x 768 Screen Resolution
- 256KB L2 Cache
- 2MB Video RAM
- Stereo Speakers and Sound Blaster Support
- Windows 95 and Lotus Smart Suite
- Lithium-Ion Battery
- UltraBay Flexibility
- 8X CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- 28.8 Modem/Fax
- Infrared Ports
- Ethernet Compatible
- 7.7 Pounds, 2.2" Thin
- 3-Year Warranty

\$1999

ThinkPad 765L

9547-U9J

- Similar to 765D, without CD-ROM or Modem

\$1899



ThinkPad



IBM ThinkPad



ThinkPad 380D

2635-3AU

The 380D features IBM's TFT active matrix color display for superior contrast and brightness.

- Intel® Pentium® Processor with MMX technology, 150 MHz.
- 16 MB RAM (80MB max.)
- 2.1GB SMART EIDE Hard Drive
- 12.1" TFT Active Matrix Display
- 800 x 600 Resolution
- 1.125MB Video DRAM
- 256KB L2 cache
- 8X CD-ROM
- Lithium-Ion Battery
- 6.9 Pounds, 2.4" Thin
- Lotus Smart Suite, Windows 95
- One Year Warranty

\$1245



ThinkPad 380ED

2635-5AU

If high resolution graphics and fast multimedia capabilities are your top priorities, choose the 380ED.

- Intel® Pentium® Processor with MMX technology, 166 MHz.
- 16 MB RAM (80MB max.)
- 2.1 GB SMART EIDE Hard Drive
- 12.1" FRSTN Color Display
- 800 x 600 Resolution
- 1.125MB Video DRAM
- 256KB L2 cache
- 20X CD-ROM
- Lithium-Ion Battery
- 7 Pounds, 2.4" Thin
- Lotus Smart Suite, Windows 95
- One Year Warranty

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ThinkPad 600

2645-41U

Incredibly thin and light, the ThinkPad 600 is big in all the right places, like speed, capability and screen size.

- Intel® Mobile Pentium® II Processor with MMX Technology, 233 MHz
- 32 MB RAM (288MB max.)
- 3.2GB Hard Drive
- 13.3" TFT XGA Color Display
- 1024 x 768 Resolution
- 2MB Video RAM
- 512KB L2 cache
- 24X CD-ROM
- Lithium-Ion Battery
- 4.9 Pounds Travel Weight, 1.4" Thin
- Lotus Smart Suite, Windows 95
- Three Year Warranty

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HOW AMERICAN ICIA USES THE NET

A SPECIAL REPORT

From sea to shining sea,
Americans are logging on to
the Internet for every pur-
pose under the sun

BY ROB BERNSTEIN & DAVID SHEFF

IN 1996, THE TYPICAL AMERICAN NET USER WAS a 36-year old, affluent white male. Today, the typical American Net user—well, isn't all that typical anymore. He or she is a farmer, a supermodel, a U.S. senator, a private investigator, or a mother of 10. In other words, the American Net community is a much more diverse place than it was two years ago.

Nearly 52 million Americans are now online. It's clear that we're eager for connectivity. But what exactly is it that we're eager for? Why are we increasingly going online?

Searching high bandwidth and low, we sought out Americans who were willing to explain, in their own words, what it is that they do when they log on. We received responses from Anchorage, Alaska; the Rio Grande Valley; New York City; and everywhere in between. What follows is a collection of our favorite interviews, a mix of ordinary and extraordinary individuals using the Internet in the most colorful, conventional, and incredible ways.

Additional reporting by Steve Knopper and Carla Sinclair



FARMER

>>NAME: **Albert Bates**

>>AGE: **51**

>>LOCATION: **Summertown, TN**

If you're out planting in the field, driving a tractor, about to put in a crop, or cut straw or hay, you want to know to the exact hour when the rain will fall. Online, you can see if a front is moving across the county and know how many hours of cutting you have until the rain will hit. It can even make the difference between getting to the barn or not. Most frequently, I use **CNN** weather reports and local TV station sites.

FARMER
Albert Bates

PHOTO BY
Mark Tucker

Online, I run a business called **Mushroompeople**, a place for gourmet mushroom growers and buyers. I also help run an online training program with courses in permaculture, natural buildings, and pond and "ecovillage" design.

I like to look up stuff at **Worm World**, the **Bee Biology & Systematics Laboratory**, the **National Soybean Research Laboratory**, and other sites. I look at several feed catalogs that have sites now, like **Johnnyseeds.com**, which has a great selection of organic seeds. And the organic-farming discussion lists—like **talk.environment** and **sci.agriculture**—and sites like **www.soilandhealth.org** are great, too. I like to use ICQ to chat with a number of other farmers. We discuss how to generate healthy soil.

For me, the Net also provides disseminated culture. You can access culture—the same kinds of museum collections and interactive entertainment you can get in any city—from your living room in the middle of the rural countryside. On really cold, long nights, I'm able to read the journals of Alexis de Tocqueville, which are now available online thanks to the **Yale Republican Club**.

FORMER GANG MEMBER

>>NAME: **Alejandro Antonio Alonso**

>>AGE: **27**

>>LOCATION: **Los Angeles, CA**

I used to be involved with a gang called the Rolling 20s Bloods, from the West Adams area of South Central. I was in it until my early twenties. Because a lot of things

I see about gangs in magazines and literature are not representative of what I went through, I built a site. I try to represent things in a nonbiased way. I have information up on ex-gang members who have gone on to achieve some level of success. At the same time, I have a sec-

FORMER
GANG
MEMBER
Alejandro
Antonio Alonso

PHOTO BY
Scott Schulman
www.dogfolio.com



tion about wanted gang members. I also have a tribute to gang members who have been slain, and to police officers who have been killed in gang-related incidents. It's taboo, but I do it. I'm not trying to bridge the gap between gangs and the police. I'm just trying to help people look at it all objectively.

I also provide free sites for inmates who want pen pals. Inmates don't have Internet access. My site, **Prison Connection**, is a way for people on the outside to meet some inmates and correspond with them via snail-mail. It's extremely controversial. I have a concern for life behind bars, and I understand what a lot of the inmates are going through. I spent time in the California county jail system for a variety of offenses. Prisoners are totally isolated. I think it's very important to prepare them for reentry into mainstream society.



PARK RANGER
John David Scragg

PHOTO BY
Jeanne Freibert
www.
jfreibertstudio.com/jomofa

they let everyone else know online, and then it's passed along in the mail. Any new info that comes out, like new kinds of treatment, gets posted immediately.

The Net is good for just sharing your thoughts and troubles about having CF. It's nice to have a sympathetic ear to talk to out there. One time, I was having problems with stomach pains. I was concerned about the pains and mentioned it on the list. Someone told me that it probably had something to

do with my gallbladder—a common complication that occurs in people with CF. I told my doctor, who tested me for it. It turned out that that was what was making me sick.

We also use the Net at work quite a bit. I watch the Web to get the most current Doppler radar and precipitation information to help with Ohio River flood control.

FIFTH GRADER

>>NAME: **Callie Connelly**

>>AGE: **11**

>>LOCATION: **Hollywood, CA**

My friend, who's 13, went on the Net, and she was finding all these boys. She found this one boy, and he's asking her: "What's your phone number? What's your address?" And she gave it to him! And now she calls him and stuff. I'm like, "You're going to get in trouble with your parents." Because her parents haven't found out about this. He sent her pictures. It's just like, *eeewww!*

I spend an hour in chat rooms every day. There's a kids-only area on AOL. My mom put a block on everything else, so I can only go in there. All my friends put each other on the Buddy List, so we know when everyone's online. After I found out about kids disappearing after talking to people on the Net, I got freaked. Now I try to limit it, talking only to my friends from school. I've had people say stuff like: "Are you 18 or older? Wanna cyber?" And it's, like, "Get away from me!" I found out how to block people or report them to the America Online people.

I don't think the Internet is the best way to talk to people, because it's like if a stranger called you up and said, "Hey, do you want to chat?" You wouldn't talk to him. I think that's a little creepy. I mean, TV obviously isn't good for you, either, but maybe it's better for you than going on the Internet and meeting people you don't even know.



FIFTH GRADER
Callie Connelly

PHOTO BY
Gary Moss

The Web also allows me to tell people about my life, to let people know that I'm a legitimate person. I can say, "Hey, I'm doing well." People can see that I'm at the University of Southern California and that I made some major changes and accomplishments in my life.

Now, I'm working to bring the Net to everyone. I'm trying to develop a not-for-profit computer lab right in the middle of the inner city of Los Angeles. I want to teach Internet skills to inner-city kids.

PARK RANGER

>>NAME: **John David Scragg**

>>AGE: **28**

>>LOCATION: **Proctorville, OH**

I have cystic fibrosis (CF). I was diagnosed when I was 6 years old. The Web has been fantastic for dealing with it. I was able to join a LISTSERV [mailing list] group, and we now have a CF network around the United States. If someone has some extra medicine that they're not using anymore,



TRUCK DRIVER

>>NAME: **Monty Rhodes**

>>AGE: **53**

>>LOCATION: **Dayton, OH**

I manage and administer the roundtable on **TruckNet**. I also use the Net for my e-mail. Every day I can get online, I'm on. The TruckNet Roundtable reminds me of the restaurant counters and TV lounges. We meet people we don't even know, and have a good time chatting and joking with each other.

Some of the truck stops now have kiosks; some are installing data ports. So I can take a laptop into the stop and plug it in. I'm seeing more truckers with computers. Technology, like satellite tracking and messaging, is now readily available to truckers. Especially in winter, when I need to look at blizzard conditions, I check the **Weather Channel** online. Weather is the most crucial up-to-the-minute info that truckers need.

Older drivers rebel against this stuff, while the younger ones think it's great. But the older drivers are coming onboard. Technology is forcing the older drivers to come into the Internet age.

COMEDIAN

Sinbad

PHOTO BY
Craig
Blankenhorn



COMEDIAN

>>NAME: **Sinbad**

>>AGE: **40**

>>LOCATION: **Los Angeles, CA**

I was on CompuServe in '84. I used to tell guys, "One day, man, we can all hook up online." And they just thought I was out of my mind. They said, "Man, what are you talking about?" It wasn't until 10 years later that everybody started getting into it.

All of us who were online early, you know, we're kind of smug. I became so smug online, I used to dog the newbies. I even used to have my Web address on my clothes when I was onstage. People who didn't know anything about it were like, "What's that *www*?" Now I have people who've been on the Net one week saying, "Sinbad, you really have to get on the Internet." They don't know that on my tour bus, I've taken out the beds and everything and put in a computer desk and cellular modems that are hooked into a land-line. With this system, I can stay connected at all times.

I use the Net for almost everything. I'm roofing my house now, so I looked up *roofing* online. The other day I found a nice spot on **AudioNet** [now **broadcast.com**] for all these underground DJs. I'm going to get all that music. AudioNet, that's where I lost my mind.

What's scary about the Net is that we almost forget what we did before we had it. It's almost information overload. I was kind of burned out when the Web started. I had to come off-line for a while. I wouldn't go online because I knew what it would do to me—like a drug. There are too many sites out there.

MOTHER OF 10

>>NAME: **Sherri Kaufmann**

>>AGE: **50**

>>LOCATION: **Gaylord, MN**

Our 10 kids range in age from 10 to 29. Four of them live away from home, three out of state. We are a close family. Though we're spread out all over the country, the Net helps us stay close. When I learned about the Internet, the thought I had was to scan pictures of the family and put them up on the Web for all the other kids to see. That's how it started.

It's hard having the kids out of state for long periods of time. My oldest son is in the Air Force; he's hardly seen his 10-year-old sister—maybe five times in 10 years. We all talk on the phone, but communicating on the

Net...it's just different. After dinner, instead of sitting around in the living room talking, we sit in front of the computer talking, even though the kids are spread out around the country. We have three computers in the house. The one we use most is in the kitchen. Everybody just wanders through. We're on the Net all the time; the kids just stop in to chat when they feel like it.

The kids do homework on the Net. It has been really helpful. It enhances the libraries they have at school. Our daughter is getting married in October. We planned much of the wedding on the Internet. We did the in-

e-mail addresses and chat-room screen names, she tried to keep tabs on him online. Things finally moved into the physical world—she began taking pictures of him and e-mailing them to him. It was an electronic *Fatal Attraction*. He had finally had enough and came to me. She didn't realize that when you get on the Web, you leave a digital fingerprint. In this case it was her IP address [a computer's numerical identification on the Net], which tracked her down at the company she worked for. We went straight to the courts and won a restraining order against her.



vitations—chose the design, chose the paper, ordered them. We'd use a chat program called ICQ to talk with each other while we looked at dresses, visiting the same sites.

PRIVATE EYE

>>NAME: **Joseph Seanor**

>>AGE: **33**

>>LOCATION: **Alexandria, VA**

I spend a lot of time online tracking down individuals for clients. The Net's a fantastic source of intelligence. In one recent case, a client had met a woman on the Net through online classifieds. They started talking quite a bit via e-mail. But soon, things began to get way out of proportion. She began getting very demanding, so he called it quits. He stopped e-mailing her. She felt spurned and took a bunch of their e-mail exchanges and sent them off to people he worked with. The e-mails weren't very favorable toward his coworkers. Next, masquerading under different

**PROFES-
SIONAL
CLOWN**
Steven Fowler

PHOTO BY
Bud Lee



PROFESSIONAL CLOWN

>>NAME: **Steven Fowler**

>>AGE: **40**

>>LOCATION: **Palm Harbor, FL**

I started using the Net as a way to accumulate useful links about clowning. I'm relatively new as a clown. I created a site that offers information about how to apply makeup and techniques for removing it, face-painting tricks, and how to make balloon animals. Basically, I'm trying to make it into a comprehensive site about clowns.

One clown whose site I link to—his name is **Charlie the Clown**—pushes a lot of the stuff he does in Las Vegas through his Web site. In the three years he has had his Web site up, he has only gotten one gig. The best way to get gigs for a clown is still through contacts in the real world.

PRIVATE EYE

Joseph Seanor

PHOTO BY
Gail Shust
Georgetown
University

But the Net is a great place for sharing information. I learned a lot about clown noses online, for example. This is important because I do free shows for children in Shriner hospitals through a ministry group called Fools for Christ. I discovered that there is only one type of nose allowed in these hospitals, because children who suffer from spina bifida are susceptible to a disease caused by latex. You can't have latex near them. Using the Web, I was able to find the ProNose, the only clown nose that uses rubber and not latex.

CABBIE

>>NAME: **Bud Carson**

>>AGE: **32**

>>LOCATION: **San Francisco, CA**

Driving a cab is very dreamlike, and if you don't record the beautiful and horrific things you see immediately, it gets lost in a haze of faces and places that eventually fade away. I use my computer to write about what happens. I offer Net visitors to my site an exclusive, dusk-till-dawn San Francisco cab experience.

I've been taking a 35-mm camera with me so I can take pictures of people in my cab. I post the pictures to my Web site. I'm putting together a virtual night on the Web that shows my 30-plus rides for one particular evening, with the exception of one gentleman who was very pasty and drunk. I've included pictures of the rides and a little bit about each of them—information I learned during the ride. Night fares tend to be more willing to get interactive than day fares.

There's also a lot of information about San Francisco online—about cool con-

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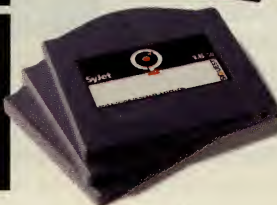
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New Zealand, and Australia. We'll present a case and people will comment on it. Or, I can present a question to my colleagues and get responses from people around the world.

ACTIVIST

>>NAME: James Wentzy

>>AGE: 45

>>LOCATION: New York City, NY

I am an AIDS activist and use the Net to educate the public, to make it clear that the crisis is not over. With the new cocktail medicines and the triple combination therapies, everything seems rosy, but it's not. People are still dying.

I'm using my site to get the word out about how the national prohibition of funding needle exchanges is fueling the AIDS crisis. The Net lets us talk politically about this stuff, about how the government deals with undesirable people—whether that means gays, lesbians, drug users, people of

vious activists—and explain the work they've done, and why they did it. We also use it to organize rallies.

AUDITOR

>>NAME: David Kawada

>>AGE: 32

>>LOCATION: San Francisco, CA

I first logged on at the local public library. I needed to do some research on travel. I instantly realized what was out there—and realized I needed my own Internet access. So I bought a WebTV unit. The Net has now replaced going to the library for me. I can't remember the last time I went to the library. Everything I need I find is online. I can even do my banking online at my bank's Web site.

Perhaps the most surprising benefit of the Net—and perhaps the greatest benefit—has been meeting with different people from all over the world. I was intrigued by all of the personal Web pages out there. I learned how to create one, and now I

ventions and local activities coming to town. One was **Survival Research Laboratories**, a group that invents very bizarre things like huge flamethrowers and robots that do nothing but tear each other up for a big performance. The performances are very undercover. On the Net, you can find out about these kinds of things. The majority of my social life is planned through the Net, particularly countercultural events.

HERBALIST

>>NAME: Brigitte Mars

>>AGE: 45

>>LOCATION: Boulder, CO

I had a client with bone cancer who had been working in the carpet-cleaning business. He had been working up to his upper arms in chemicals every day. His company said, "Oh, no, no, the chemicals are really safe—don't worry about it." I went to the Internet and typed in *dry cleaning* and got all these articles on the harmful effects of dry-cleaning chemicals. It would've taken me a lot of research and time to access that kind of information before the Internet; now I can quickly access information for myself and for my clients.

I'm also part of this wonderful online group called **Herbal Hall**. I'm able to network and connect with my herbal colleagues from all over the world—from England, Africa,

ACTIVIST
James Wentzy

PHOTO BY
Gene Bressler



color, or immigrants. That's why AIDS activists were on the front lines when it came to pushing the Supreme Court to protect free speech on the Net.

The Net also helps activists archive all of the information—all of the work of pre-

work on it constantly a few hours every week, improving it, adding new features. I've gotten to know two people really well. One lives in Australia, one in Georgia. We keep in close touch, and we may meet [in person] some day.

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SUPERMODEL

>>NAME: Kathy Ireland

>>AGE: 35

>>LOCATION: Los Angeles, CA

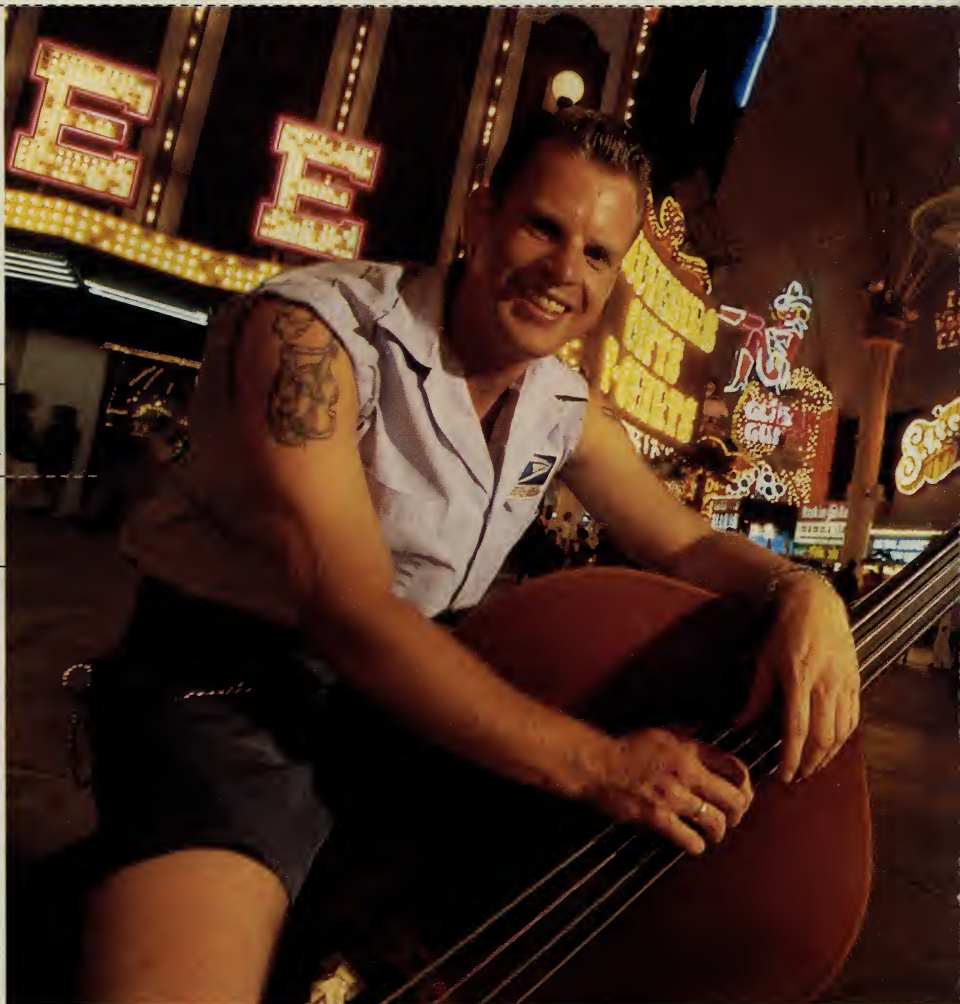
For a long time, the only computer I used to use was the teller machine at my bank. But now I'm very dependent on the Net. For traveling and photo shoots, the Net is great. You can check the weather in any given location. It's nice to know what to pack whether I'm going to New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, or Fiji.

In the past, I've browsed through some fan sites. Some of them were quite nice, but some were a bit sketchy, if you know what I mean. My official site helps to represent me a little more accurately. Also, I get feedback for my line of clothing. People tell me what they like, what they don't like. It's the way the whole line is inspired.

This year, I'm serving as ambassador of women's health issues for the EIF [Entertainment Industry Foundation]. Through my home page, I can hear from women about their many health concerns. The Internet is really making a difference for this cause.

MAILMAN
Jason E. Smith

PHOTO BY
Jeff Scheid



NEWSPAPER CUSTOMER REPRESENTATIVE

>>NAME: Rebecca McNearney

>>AGE: 29

>>LOCATION: Anchorage, AK

I first started using the Net when I was living in North Carolina. I was a military spouse and found out that we would be moving to Alaska, and I wanted to find out about the state. I was really nervous about going there. But I have to say that the whole move would have been so much worse had it not been for the other military spouses I met online. They told me how to prepare for the different lifestyle. They told me about the dangers of traveling up to Alaska by car, for instance. We were planning to take the Alaska Marine Highway all the way up and learned that we needed to buy an engine-block heater. You have to plug in your car at night in Alaska, or else it freezes.

When I got to Alaska, I found my job online through the *Anchorage Daily News* Web site. While surfing, I also found that there wasn't much support for military wives online, in Alaska or elsewhere. So I've put together a resource page on that at my home

page. Military wives spend a lot of time online looking for companionship, because their spouses are gone so much. It gets lonely. It's good to have that support.

MAILMAN

>>NAME: Jason E. Smith

>>AGE: 27

>>LOCATION: Las Vegas, NV

If I'm online, I'm either chatting or looking up pages about *psychobilly*—rockabilly and hillbilly music mixed. I also like to check out double-bass pages and double-bass players.

I check out a lot of Vegas sites just to see what's going on around town. The local radio stations, the local magazines. But I don't gamble online. No, no, no. My wife and I are not interested in gambling. Nothing good can come out of it. I'm really, really skeptical about gambling or purchasing anything over the Net. I won't give my credit card over the Net. I used it once to order some CDs over the Net, and even though it was a secured site, an adult site got ahold of my number and went crazy with it. I'm also careful of downloading things from the Net. I recently downloaded a virus from a site that wouldn't let me open up Netscape again.

SUPER-MODEL
Kathy Ireland

PHOTO BY
John Ragel/
Outline





**SONG-
WRITER**
Buffy Sainte-
Marie

PHOTO BY
Denise Grant

The digital scene in Indian country at the moment is a microcosm of the way it is most everywhere else, with people at various stages of expertise and enthusiasm going through the big shift. Issues of sovereignty are often the first to come up among Native intellectuals, and the specter of digital colonialism frightens some and challenges others. Questions of control and ownership arise, of course, as they do in the mainstream, but with perhaps a sharper edge, given the facts of Native American history.

The reality of the situation is that we're not all dead and stuffed in some museum with the dinosaurs: We are here in this digital age. We expect to prosper and to contribute.

GAS-STATION OPERATOR

>>NAME: **Jeff Manning**

>>AGE: **44**

>>LOCATION: **Saratoga, IN**

My father died a couple of years ago. We were running the business up to that time. The original business has

been here since 1948. It was just a gasoline service station—automotive and farm machinery. My uncle was our main mechanic. When he passed away, we never found anybody to replace him, but we continued doing basic things: changing oil and tires. There is only limited business out here—it's a town of about 300 people. That's when I thought of trying the Net.

A while back, kerosene heaters were very popular, but not anymore. Now the dealers and distributors that used to have them are going out of business, and people are having trouble finding replacement parts and wicks. I decided it was worth a try to set up a site and sell them on the Net. After the first year, it took off pretty good. We get about a thousand hits a month during our season; most of them translate into orders. Everything kind of seems to be falling into place. The Internet has given us a bigger business than the one we started with.

We're out in the middle of nowhere. Muncie is about 40 miles west of us. Our town is three miles from the nearest highway. It's hard to get people to come here, but now I found a way to reach more people. Here we are in Saratoga, and we get orders from all over the world. We got one today from Chile.

SONGWRITER

>>NAME: **Buffy Sainte-Marie**

>>AGE: **57**

>>LOCATION: **Kauai, HI**

When we were colonized, the ability to speak out—to be published—was taken away from Native Americans. Because of the Internet, we have that ability again. It's in the hands of indigenous people again. And we have a lot to say. Indian people suffer from being misperceived. We have the highest national suicide and depression rates. We're using the Net to do something quite serious: to communicate information and knowledge. Using our Web site, **Cradleboard**, people can get an enormous amount of accurate information about Native Americans. And thousands of First Nations children are networking their observations and life experiences into mainstream education.

Before the Net, I ran Cradleboard on a text basis, providing the best Native American study board I possibly could. But it was very basic: No matter how I wrote it, no matter how creative I was with the pictures on the page, it was still dead text about dead

**GAS-
STATION
OPERATOR**
Jeff Manning

PHOTO BY
Star Press,
Muncie, IN



SENATOR (REPUBLICAN)

>>NAME: **Conrad Burns**

>>AGE: **63**

>>LOCATION: **Billings, MT**

Let's face it: The introduction of the Net into rural areas has really put us on the highway. In other words, we can't move Montana any closer to Denver or Minneapolis or Seattle—not that we'd want to—but it allows us to access information that we never had before. I don't know that we're the wild frontier anymore.

Every day, I check *AP*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*. Their stories come out the night before you see them in the paper. It's nice to take a look at stories and developments around the world before they're out. It certainly allows me to anticipate. And you know, all politicians like to anticipate.

The Net gives America a freer access to the government. It's perhaps democracy at work in its finest form. I'm a fan of it, and I recognize that there are some things on it that are inappropriate and unacceptable. But it's just like anywhere else you go physically. If you go downtown, you can find the same kind of stuff you see online.

SENATOR
(REPUBLICAN)
Conrad Burns

SENATOR
(DEMOCRAT)
Carol
Moseley-Braun



One thing I'm not in favor of, however, is letting people vote online. People should go to the polls and cast their ballot. People should have to make a concerted effort to vote. Not everything that's convenient is necessarily good.

SENATOR (DEMOCRAT)

>>NAME: **Carol Moseley-Braun**

>>AGE: **51**

>>LOCATION: **Chicago, IL**

I don't personally open myself up to my staff via e-mail, because I would never get anything done. My own personal e-mail



is off-limits. But I do communicate with Matt, my son at Washington University, and my friends throughout the world. I check out gardening sites—look for places to buy antique roses online. I'm trying to plant a variety of antique roses in my garden because they smell nicer than the modern hybrids.

Of course I use the Net for interaction with my constituents and for legislative research. Every day I get news clippings from the Internet. It also helps with researching legislative language and details. My entire staff uses it to get into the interstices of the bills and the line that we have to take.

INVENTOR

>>NAME: **Bob Voiss**

>>AGE: **44**

>>LOCATION: **Simi Valley, CA**

I use the Net to promote my invention—a little clip designed to look like a set of teeth—that I call Lockjaws. It was originally designed to keep a tube of toothpaste rolled up, and I then marketed it to the retail industry as a bag clip. Sold 1.2 million so far. After doing this for two and a half years, we know Lockjaws appeals to people of all ages and nationalities. It's a worldwide audience. And the only way we're available to share our product with this audience is through the Internet.

I got some great contacts through the Internet. I put out the word for Lockjaws in different newsgroups and on my site. I now check other products online and find different distributors of houseware products, decorative magnets, and key rings. I hit every market I can. I've got three computers, and I'm dialed in almost 10 hours a day. Now I'm using the Net to help with my latest idea: tire covers for trailer and mobile homes.

INVENTOR
Bob Voiss

PHOTO BY
Scott Schulman
www.dogfolio.com



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MOVIE DIRECTOR

>>NAME: **Mark Dippé**

>>AGE: **40**

>>LOCATION: **San Francisco, CA**

The Net was extremely important in the making of my movie, *Spawn*. It was used to communicate design ideas when the film was being shot. But the critical Net phase occurred after the filming. The portions of the film that required additional visual-effects work were digitized, and these digitized film clips were then sent to over 23 different visual-effects companies spread throughout most of California, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, and England. Since this work was complex and under tremendous constraints of time and money, daily communication was essential. The only way

that this could have been done effectively was through the Internet.

Thanks to the Net, I sleep less and spend more time alone, illuminated by an eerie, blue glow. E-mail is a daily ritual that keeps me in touch with people all over the world and allows me to work on my various projects no matter where I am or what time of day it is. I send and receive data of all forms. For example, sending videotape from Hollywood to Tokyo by FedEx will take at least 48 hours. But I can send a video clip [over the Net] in a matter of minutes. I can instantly send or receive video and film clips or still images that might be examples of locations, costumes, artwork. Sometimes they're just freaky photos. The same is true for sound clips and sound effects.

about meeting someone online that's a little creepy to me. I have my two cats. I think I want to get married, meet someone. But even if Mr. Absolutely Wonderful, even if J.F.K. Jr.—well, he's not my epitome of wonderful—whoever came along online, they're going to get a totally different scenario in their head of what I'm really like.

I'm putting together an Internet-related cybertalk show. It'll be about different issues, simultaneously on TV or radio and the Net. I also have a cyber-PR marketing firm pushing Web sites now. Meanwhile, I'm rebuilding my site. The new version will have lots of interactive things. I'm thinking of doing a cam, too. The people who are doing them now are pretty weird—lots of ugly tattoos and all that. Mine would be different. You wouldn't catch me vacuuming.

FIFTH-GRADE TEACHER

>>NAME: **Louis Spiro**

>>AGE: **51**

>>LOCATION: **Agawam, MA**

I like teaching; it's my thing. The Net has become a valuable teaching tool. My students have a different type of contact with their teacher—more personal. For a few of them, that can mean a lot. I also use the Net for research. You never know what will come up in class. When we get into something that I don't normally teach, that's not in the book, I go to the Net.

The page devoted to my classroom, Room 204, is where the students come to see their work. Their parents come, too. I get e-mail from parents. They can send me e-mail without their kids' knowing about it—it's not like sending a note from home with your child. It is a new way of communicating between parents and teachers.

I made a Web page for teachers. It has teaching tips. It's a place to send teachers when parents ask how to get their children to do their homework—stuff like that. With 24 years of experience, I sometimes really do have some good ideas.

And I use the Net to speak with students who have e-mail. I'm surprised—it's more successful than the part of the site devoted to teachers. Sometimes, on a weekend, I receive a message from one of my kids. They write with a question or just to tell me they're going camping for the weekend or something: "Have a good weekend, Mr. Spiro."

All sites referred to in this story, including personal home pages, can be found on the Site Address Guide on page 17.



MOVIE
DIRECTOR
Mark Dippé

PHOTO BY
Peter Iovino

ONLINE SEX ADVISER

>>NAME: **Lucy Lipps**

>>AGE: **27**

>>LOCATION: **Houston, TX**

Sex is the only thing that sells on the Net; it's the only thing that's really making money. When *Playboy* told me they were doing a spread on the First Ladies of the Internet, I first said no. It was never my aspiration in life to take my clothes off in public. But I realized the marketing capability it could have, and I went for it. Days after [the issue] came out, I had 9.2 million hits.

I'd say 25 percent of the questions I get are about sex, 25 percent are about me, and 50 percent are just about relationships. I've never dated anyone I've met online. The truth is, I'm mostly at home or traveling. There's not a lot of time to date, and there's something

ONLINE
SEX
ADVISED
Lucy Lipps

PHOTO BY
Pam Francis



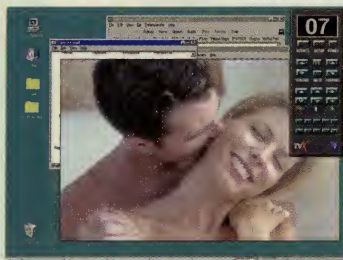
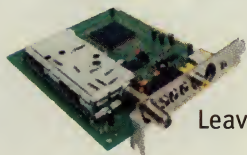
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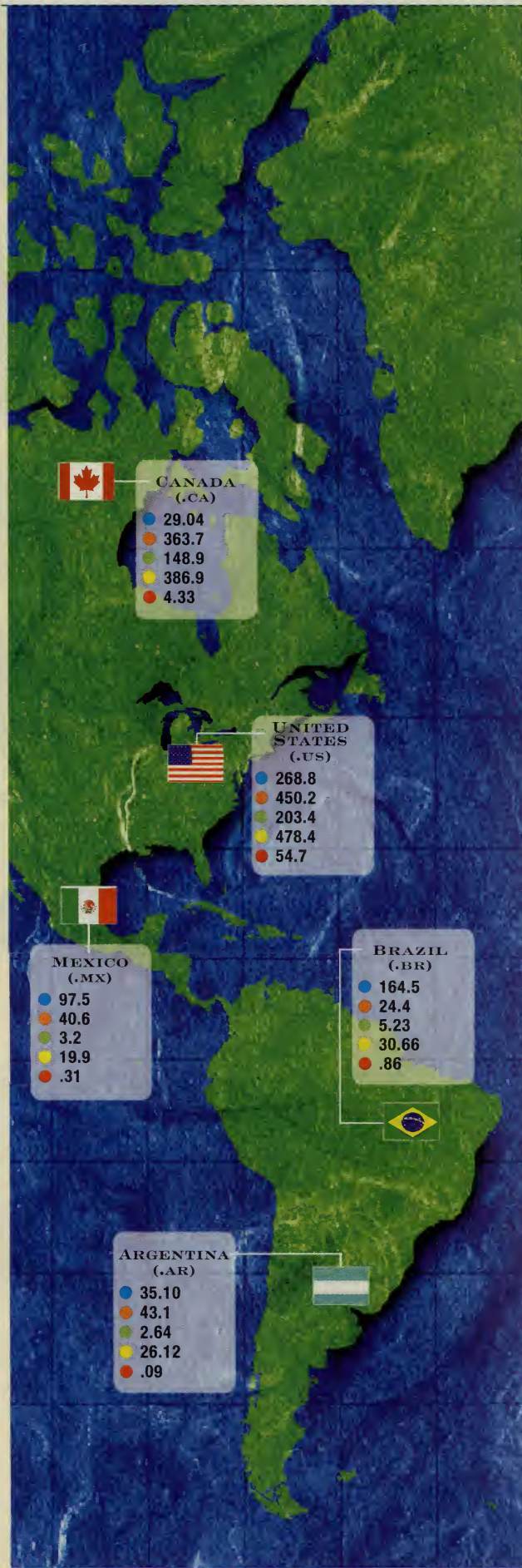
WORLD WIDE WEB

Though its growing pains are still widely felt, this digital global village is finding room for both the wise and the weird everywhere

BY MATT RICHTEL AND DECLAN MCCULLAGH

FOR LUDDITES OF ALL NATIONALITIES, THESE are truly exasperating times.

Particularly in the wired West, the Internet has become an almost inescapable presence. Turn on a TV set, and you're apt to see some local merchant hawking his wares as *www.something-or-other.com* flashes across his belly. Open a newspaper, and alongside coverage of mudslides and mudslinging you'll find the latest body count in the Netscape vs. Microsoft "browser wars." Films and fragrances are routinely launched with their own Web sites. Middle managers, armed with laptops and wireless modems, have graduated to "road warrior" status. Meanwhile, fourth graders nonchalantly chat online with





LEGEND

Country Name (Domain-Name Suffix)

- Population in millions
- Computers per 1,000 people
- Internet users per 1,000 people
- Year 2000 projected estimate of users per 1,000 people
- Percentage of the world's Internet users

Source: Internet Industry Almanac
(Computer Industry Almanac Inc., 1998)

peers scattered around the globe.

"We're beginning to see penetration of the Net into places that haven't had television—in a few cases, that haven't had postal delivery," says Adam Clayton Powell III, vice president of the Freedom Forum, an international advocacy group based in Arlington, Virginia. Paul Saffo, a director of the Institute for the Future in Menlo Park, California, concurs. "The Internet," he notes, "has become the buffet of a global cultural smorgasbord."

That said, it should come as no surprise that some nations have fuller plates than others. Norway, for example, trails behind only the U.S. in terms of the percentage of homes with Net access (17 percent, compared with America's 21 percent). Sweden and Finland follow closely, at 15 percent and 11.7 percent, respectively.

Why such widespread Net use in Scandinavia? For one thing, the region's inhabitants are well educated and relatively wealthy, and they tend to love technology. But climate, too, plays a significant role. "It sounds trite, but it's partly because the region is so isolated in the winter," explains Internet guru Esther Dyson, whose EDventure Holdings manages a venture-capital fund that focuses on high-tech start-ups in Central Europe.

Other nations in the high per-capita-use club include Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, and Germany. One curiously slow adopter of the Net in Western Europe, however, has been France—which more than a decade ago rolled out the Minitel system, the closest thing to a centrally planned Internet that the world has yet seen. Paradoxically, the country's eager and early embrace of this often sluggish and somewhat awkward service—currently used by some 35 million subscribers—has delayed adoption of the Internet itself. The Net has also met resistance in France from the government, which worries that the technology will help to water down French culture. (Two private French watchdog groups went so far as to sue Georgia Institute of Technology, which maintains a campus in France, for vio-

lating the Toubon Law—a 1994 statute requiring that all advertising in France appear only in French. The suit was ultimately dismissed.)

In the Middle East, it's Israel that can claim Most Wired Nation status. There, a number of users are accessing the Web in hopes of mitigating the nation's sometimes deadly geographic isolation. Dr. Yossi Leshem, an Israeli scientist, runs a Web site that reads location information from satellite transmitters. The transmitters home in on thousands of birds landing in the country's lush Hula Valley (en route to Europe, where the summer weather is more pleasant). Leshem displays the migration patterns on the Web, with the aim of demonstrating to students across the Middle East that if storks and spotted eagles can ignore national

How do governments with local bans on certain types of material deal with content served up by Web sites halfway around the world?

boundaries, human beings can as well.

It's a nice idea, but so far Israel's neighbors have been forced to confront the Internet in a much less metaphoric way. For the most part, these countries represent the other end of the wired spectrum—places where the very idea of what the Net makes possible runs counter to state ideologies. In Iran, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, for instance, there's still limited access to the Net, and antigovernment sentiments are reportedly censored. In Egypt politicians are considering whether to allow greater Net access, but with a specific agenda in mind: to stanch the spread of religious fundamentalism. And as for Syria and Iraq? Virtual silence. They've seemingly drawn a line in the sand, insisting: "Internet, do not cross here!"


After all, how do governments with local bans on publications deemed sexually titillating, politically unpalatable, or forthrightly seditious deal with content

served up by Web sites halfway around the world? This is a question with particularly strong resonance in Asia. Singapore's solution was to cordon off certain sites through proxy servers—setting up, in effect, a digital border police. China went one step further, erecting a sort of Great Firewall around the country. But Myanmar's brutal military dictatorship had an even simpler, low-tech answer: imprisonment for anyone caught using a network device without a license.

Politics has certainly played a considerable part in slowing or stalling the adoption of the Net in these countries, as it has in Turkey and Vietnam. But in many nations, poor telephone infrastructure has been equally obstructive. Throughout much of Latin America, for example, serious Net users must stay up late (or wake up early) to log on. Even then, the low-capacity lines connecting the region with the rest of the world typically make Web surfing an excruciating exercise. In Colombia, it can take an hour to download a single JPEG image of modest size. Still, there's some hope for Latin America's would-be hard-core geeks: Phone deregulation should

speed up both market competition and connection rates. Argentina has been particularly forward-looking in this regard, as have Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

On the whole, though, Africa remains the continent with the lowest rates of Internet usage. Indeed, many African countries have hookups only in their capitals. And although in some areas the Net has arrived ahead of even basic amenities (several villages in West Africa lack running water but boast e-mail access via satellite, thanks to local humanitarian groups), such projects are understandably still in their infancy.

"Net use [in Africa] is basic and fundamental," says Powell of the Freedom Forum. "In the U.S., the Internet is like water. But in other places, it has been a technology desert." 

Declan McCullagh is a Washington, D.C.-based correspondent for Time's The Netly News.

Save D

卷之五

The Big Move

cc: [Save Outgoing Message

Save Outgoing Message

cc: [redacted]
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☐ I promised myself that this time I'd do it right, no more than 8 hours at a stretch, no more than 75 miles an hour, and no more junk food. Two before the new job starts. No rush, right? Well, the first night I made it all the way to Moll got tagged doing 90, and was so bummed I ate of cookies.

I'm starting to regret my time selection and I'm ready to finish up. Matthew are in a line in the back of the car and I'm sure damn. I'm really hoping.

I pro
no more
75 miles the night
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of cookies.

Now I'm starting to regret my time selections
is Dave Matthews and I'm ready to release his
all my other CDs are in a box in the back of
(unlabeled, of course) and I'm sure damn well
the whole thing. I'm really hoping
somebody would

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THE WRITER OF TWO JAMES BOND FLICKS TAKES WOULD LEAVE EVEN 007 HIMSELF SHAKEN: FAMILY

It's 7:30 on a Friday night in Los Angeles. My wife and I are just getting ready to leave the house—we're halfway out the door, headed to see the latest action-adventure extravaganza (*The Earth Is Doomed, and Only Bruce Willis's Attitude Can Save It!*)—when suddenly, our forward progress is stopped by the sound of a ringing telephone.

"Hi, it's your father," a voice announces. Precisely why my dad always starts a conversation like this—identifying himself as if I couldn't possibly recognize him after all these decades—forever baffles and amuses me. But he always does it. And the best I can figure is that it's a "dad" thing—the same way it's a

"son" thing that I can immediately hear the anxiety in his voice. "Hi, it's your son," I reply. "Is everything all right?"

For a moment my dad says nothing. Then he sighs sheepishly: "I need some help with the computer."

My wife is standing at the front door, waiting to see Bruce Willis wisecrack his way past certain death. But on the other hand, my dad is on the phone. I feel like I've just stepped into a real-life version of an airplane disaster movie, where somebody's calling from the control tower: "Thank God, you're home! You've got to help us! There's a 747 coming in, and the pilot and copilot are dead! You're the only one who can talk it down!"

I explain the situation to my wife. Not the bit about the 747. But the fact that my dad needs me. "I swear," I tell her. "It'll only take five minutes."

"Five minutes?" My wife cocks her head incredulously. "Five minutes for you to fix a computer?" I nod. She laughs.

"No problem," she says slyly. "That means I have time to paint the house. And do our taxes. And maybe get around to finally reading *War and Peace*." She

moves into the living room and turns on the TV.

"Don't worry about it," she adds. "I didn't want to see the movie anyway."

Sound familiar? Do you sometimes wonder, How did I become the family's in-house computer geek? Have you recently contemplated changing your answering machine to respond: "Press 1 if you want to talk to me; press 2 if you need help with Netscape"?

Let me put it another way: Which did you find more hilarious in the recent *New York Times* article estimating there were 28,504,452 tech-support calls made last year? (A) The fact that they "estimated" exactly 28,504,452? Or (B) That it feels as if you answered at least that many calls all by yourself?

I'm glad my parents—along with my uncles, aunts, and assorted cousins—have decided to join the computer age. I'm proud that my 75-year-old dad has elected to embrace the future. I'm thrilled he's online. I don't begrudge a minute of the time I've spent getting him up and running, including the long distance phone calls I've had to make from movie sets in Bangkok and London. I look forward to his e-mails, even the copies of all the hor-



ON AN ASSIGNMENT THAT

TECH SUPPORT BY BRUCE FEIRSTEIN

rendous jokes he sends along on a daily basis.

But when it comes to the concept of “ease of use,” I am convinced that we—the computer-literate—are kidding ourselves. We can bicker all we want about the merits of Mac vs. Wintel. But it’s largely irrelevant. Because the things I find myself explaining have nothing to do with General Protection Faults or sound cards or DLLs.

“What’s an icon?” That’s a question I’m likely to hear.

“What’s a highlight?”

Advisor

That, too. My father, like my other technologically ambitious relatives, needs my help in grasping basic terminology: *cursor* and *menu* and *desktop*. They don’t understand how to scroll through a window, or how to click on a link.

My all-time favorite conversation, which I must have at least weekly with one of my relatives, is the one that begins with the question, “When I turn on my computer, I’ll get my e-mail, right?”

“Not really,” I answer patiently. But this answer doesn’t solve matters. It only triggers a series of increasingly opaque questions, for which I furnish increasingly impatient answers. “So if I click on the Netscape icon, am I online?” (“No. That just starts the program.”) “So if I start the program, does *that* mean I’m online?” (“No, you still have to call in to the service provider.”) “Oh. Should I do that now?” (“No. You’re already using the only telephone line, with me.”) “So how do I get my e-mail without going online?” (Arrgghhhh!)

For the vast number of people on planet Earth who are not yet computer-literate—including roughly 70 percent of the American population—getting plugged in and logged on is about learning not only a new language but also a whole new way to think. And finding a way into this world is more difficult than ever.

Consider, for example, almost any piece of software on your computer. Presuming you’ve been involved with computers and the Net for more than 10 minutes, you’ve been through a learning curve: Perhaps you’ve gone from Microsoft’s Internet



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE CIARDIELLO



Explorer (or Netscape Navigator, or AOL) version 1.0 to 2.0, or 3.0 to 4.0. Or maybe you've upgraded through each new release of Word or Quicken. Along the way, you were learning. So as the software became more complex—with all the new features and bells and whistles—you took it in stride, learning about each “improvement” incrementally.

Now consider my father, clicking on the Microsoft Word 98 icon for the first time. The hard disk churns, the program opens, and he's suddenly faced with an avalanche of menus and icons that are completely, totally overwhelming—and for the life of him, he can't figure out what the hell to do with that talking paper clip.

On the one hand, I want to load my father's computer with every software gadget and add-on that modern technology can produce, hoping he'll be excited by all the amazing things the computer can accomplish. But on the other hand, I know that he'll end up sitting there, staring into the screen of the loaded-up computer, trying to figure out how to write a family newsletter. While I'm trying to explain how he can bounce documents off the moon (so to speak) with four-color headlines that spin in 3-D, he's just trying to get his mind around the concept of a virtual page. “I don't understand,” my dad says. “If I'm looking at the screen page, why can't I just point the cursor anywhere on the page, and type at that spot?”

Long pause on my end. “Well...you have to use the Enter key—the old carriage return—to move down an empty page to the point where you want to insert the words.”

“That doesn't make any sense,” my dad sighs. “Why can't I just use the arrow keys?”

Longer sigh at my end. I am beginning to have newfound respect for tech-support people.

On the night I didn't see the Bruce Willis film, my father and I were on the phone for almost three hours—or, as my wife clocks it, four chapters in *War and Peace*. While battles raged through Russia, my father and I reinstalled Internet Explorer 4.0, plus a whole bunch of upgrades and patch files that needed to be reinstalled after the reinstallation process. (If you understand that sentence, then you're not my father.) As my dad sat in Florida, attempting to resuscitate the Toshiba laptop I used to write the last draft of *GoldenEye*, I sat in California, mimicking his every move on its replacement—the newer Toshiba I dragged around the world while writing *Tomorrow Never Dies*. (In my family, we recycle computers: He started with the *GoldenEye* machine; I figure that, in about a year, he'll inherit the *Tomorrow Never Dies* computer.)

As I said before, despite all the phone calls and all the hand-holding, I remain thrilled that my father is online. I'm happy he's learning. And when something goes wrong, I'd much

prefer that he call me, rather than someone who is going to take advantage of him. (In my father's condominium complex, there's a guy who passes himself off as a computer expert. When my father had a printing problem, the man offered to look at it, then proceeded to charge my dad \$75 to change the default printer setting.)

And yet, there is progress. Comically slow, sometimes painfully slow. But progress. Six weeks after our last tech-support session, my father calls again. There's joy in his voice.

“I can't believe it,” he says. “I found all these Web sites. I

went to the Harry Truman library. I looked at the MIT page with all the show tunes.” He tells me he's discovered a newsgroup discussing a chronic disease that afflicts one of my aunts. He's e-mailed a cousin in Alaska about putting together a family tree. He's corresponding with my 4-year-old niece, and used the Four11 search engine to track down some of his old Army pals. When I first gave my dad the computer, I told him to experi-

ment like mad, and not to worry, because he couldn't break it. I'm pleased he's finally taken me at my word. “I'm banging around, finally getting the hang of this thing,” he explains. “I've sent you the latest Viagra joke.”

“That's great, Dad,” I respond, with a full measure of sarcasm. “My father is sending me Viagra jokes. This is obviously what the Internet was invented for.”

My father laughs. “By the way,” he says. “There is one thing I forgot to ask you.”

“What's that?”

He hesitates, unsure, as if he's about to mispronounce a word. “What's a ‘URL’?”

I look at the phone. I look at my computer. I shake my head. Somehow, my father has managed to go online, send e-mail, find Web sites, run searches, and contact his old Army buddies—yet still be totally in the dark about the basics of the online world. I can't figure out how my dad is making the computer work. All that matters is that, somehow, he's doing it.

In the future, I'm sure advances in voice-actuated software and programs that are sensitive to a user's expertise (or lack of expertise) will make this kind of thing easier, especially for newcomers. But in the meantime, as I sit on the phone with my father, I look at that key in the upper-right corner of the keyboard and realize we're still a long way from HOME. Y

Bruce Feirstein, who wrote the immortal Real Men Don't Eat Quiche before moving on to James Bond movies, contributes to Vanity Fair and the New York Observer. He is at work on a film for Disney. (For the record—to head off the inevitable queries—he uses Final Draft software for his screenplays.)

WHILE I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN HOW HE CAN
BOUNCE DOCUMENTS OFF THE MOON WITH
FOUR-COLOR HEADLINES THAT SPIN IN 3-D,
HE'S JUST TRYING TO GET HIS MIND
AROUND THE CONCEPT OF A VIRTUAL PAGE



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OLDWAY

BY DAVID SHEFF

NETWAY



Comparing the Tried-and-True with the Net-and-New

[BUYING A CAMCORDER]

OLD WAY

- 1 Having determined that the old video camera was dead (after one too many trips to the beach), decided to buy one of the swishy new Hi8 camcorders.
- 2 At the library, found a *Consumer Reports* issue in which the cameras were compared—but the article had been torn out!
- 3 Went directly to our local Circuit City discount store and compared models. Although the salesman was helpful, I couldn't help but suspect that he worked on commission: He kept pushing the most expensive models.
- 4 Chose a Sony Hi8 system for about \$600, but decided not to buy until I checked the Net.

Total time elapsed

40 minutes in the library, 20 minutes at Circuit City

Comments

I also got some advice from friends with camcorders. The Sony Hi8 systems were highly recommended.

NET WAY

- 1 Was pleased to find that *CONSUMER REPORTS* is now on the Web (www.consumerreports.org). Until recently, only a limited selection of the magazine's reports was available online.
- 2 Ponied up \$24 for a one-year online subscription. Searched for reports on camcorders and found several, albeit a year or two old.
- 3 Sony and Hitachi were the two most favorably reviewed brands, so I decided to stick with one of those.
- 4 Tried one of my favorite shopping sites, **NETMARKET** (www.netmarket.com), and went to the Camcorders section (under Electronics & Cameras). Selected "Sony" and "Hitachi," plus several features I wanted. A chart, with prices in ascending order, appeared. Checked the models I wanted to compare, and then clicked the Comparison Shop button.
- 5 Narrowed my selection. I liked the Sony CCDTR940 and Hitachi VMH835LA. The Sony had a more powerful zoom and was nearly \$150 cheaper—and \$40 less than a similar and older model at Circuit City.
- 6 Before placing an order, decided to check the online auctions for camcorders. NetMarket had no camcorders on auction, but **FIRST AUCTION** (www.firstauction.com) did. I couldn't find a model similar to the one I wanted, though, so I returned to NetMarket and placed the order.

Total time elapsed

20 minutes surfing

Comments

Saved time and money online.



WINNER

Net Way to save money, though the Old Way's word of mouth was still valuable

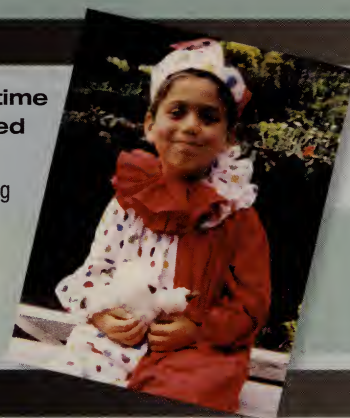
JOHN CHARD/TONY STONE

[REPLACING A LOST PHOTO—WITHOUT THE NEGATIVE]

OLD WAY

- 1 I lost a favorite photo—a classic shot of my son in clown regalia—but figured I could easily make another copy.
- 2 Searched the house from top to bottom for the negative. If you've ever seen my filing system, it won't be a surprise to hear that the search was fruitless.
- 3 Searched the house again. And again. Searched the car. And again. The attic. The basement. The garage. No print. No negative.
- 4 Gave up.

Total time elapsed
3 hours searching



Comments
I was out of luck.

NET WAY

- 1 I realized that I'd had the roll of film developed by **SEATTLE FILMWORKS** and, though I lost the negatives, had a copy of the prints in digital form on a floppy disk.
- 2 Checked with the company's Web site (www.filmworks.com) to learn what I could do. Downloaded its PhotoWorks software and another application I'd need for sending the company digital files.
- 3 Installed and ran the software, and then (following the very clear instructions) uploaded the picture from the disk.
- 4 Using the Online Print Service, I filled out a form and ordered a few copies of the photo.
- 5 The reprints arrived two weeks later.

Total time elapsed
45 minutes downloading and installing the software, but only 4 minutes placing the order

Comments
Now that I have the software, placing other orders will take just a few minutes.

WINNER

Net Way. In fact, there is no Old Way.

[CHOOSING THE LEAST EXPENSIVE SHIPPER]

OLD WAY

- 1 I needed to send a computer to New York, so I phoned the various shipping companies to compare their rates. Called Airborne Express, Federal Express, and United Parcel Service. Also called the local branch of the United States Postal Service.
- 2 The post office was cheapest. Airborne was second. FedEx and UPS were similarly expensive.

Total time elapsed
15 minutes calling

Comments
Depending on your location, the post office may not offer a pickup service, so the other carriers may be more appropriate.

NET WAY

- 1 A Net search turned up **SMARTSHIP** (www.smartship.com). Not only can you compare shipping costs at all the major carriers from this central site, but you can also track packages you've sent.
- 2 Plugged in the info: my ZIP code and the recipient's, along with the weight and size of the package. With a click, a chart appeared that included delivery options and prices for the various services. The results were the same as for the Old Way search, but it took a fraction of the time.



Total time elapsed
1 minute surfing

Comments
One-stop comparison shopping online is virtually instantaneous.

WINNER

Net Way



In the race to be the Net's

Once upon a time, there was the letter. For thousands of years, a simple process—ink to paper, paper to envelope, envelope to courier—satisfied what have come to be known as “consumer communication needs.”

But modern consumers are an impatient lot, and since impatience is the mother of invention, society has produced a steady flow of innovations—electronic mail, for example, which was thought to have closed the book on convenient correspondence once and for all. Log on, tap out your message, press Send. No muss, no fuss, no cost.

What could be easier?

The answer, it turns out, is instant messaging (IM), a technology that’s revolutionizing online communication.

Instant messaging is exactly what the name suggests: e-mail without the wait. It allows two or more networked users to have conversations or swap documents in real time. In fact, the moment you come online, a list appears on your desktop, notifying you which of your friends and colleagues are also online. Click on the person’s screen name, type a message, and voilà!—instant communication that makes e-mail look like the Pony Express.

Instant-messaging systems have existed for years on closed networks and company-wide intranets, but Internet-wide IM has been in broad circulation only since the beginning of this year. “We’re

ultimate killer app, instant messaging is making a run at e-mail

very early in the adoption curve of this technology," says Jonathan Zittrain, executive director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School. "Once we hit the knee of that curve, you'll see a real explosion."

The explosion seems pretty imminent. ICQ, a messaging system created by the Israeli company Mirabilis Ltd. and one of the early leaders in the field, has been growing at an eye-popping rate of 1 million new subscribers every 22 days (it now has some 13 million users). America Online has its own instant-messaging system, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), offered free of charge and available for downloading to AOL subscribers and non-subscribers alike. AOL's instant-messaging network now boasts 30 million users and sees traffic of an estimated 225 million messages every day. And in March, the online world's most popular site, the Yahoo! directory, released its own pager that combines IM chat with several additional features, including e-mail and stock-price notification. (Yahoo! is a business partner of this magazine.)

AIM, ICQ, and Yahoo! Pager are only three of the many IM systems available. From Ding! to PeerChat to PeopleLink, nearly a dozen IM services have sprung up in the past year, some virtually overnight—and all are vying for dominance in the Net's latest boom market.

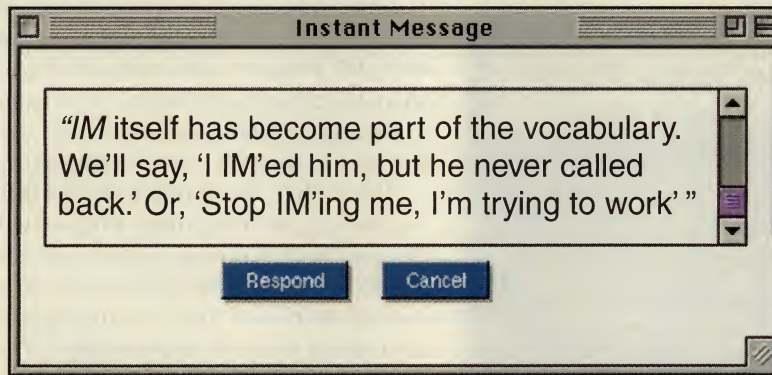
"People love this technology," says Wendy Goldberg, a spokeswoman for AOL. "I've got my own mom sending me IMs late at night telling me to go home and go to sleep. All her friends are getting it now, because she keeps telling them how easy it is. *IM* itself has become part of the vocabulary. We'll say, 'I IM'ed him, but he never called back.' Or, 'Stop IM'ing me, I'm trying to work.'"

Kelly Looney, vice president of marketing for Activeverse Inc., the creator of Ding!, is equally enthusiastic: "We foresee the day when IM software is going to be on every single desktop. It'll be something we don't even think about,

a set part of the user landscape. What IM does is remove the randomness of Net chat. Rather than having to go to a chat room and wait around, you connect directly." Looney envisions instant messages—quick, easy, and free—raising the stakes for electronic communication as a whole. "We see IM as sliding right in between the phone and e-mail," he explains. "In the end, instant messaging isn't even the point. The point is the presence—knowing at any one time who's around and available, and who's not. That's something our computers should be able to tell us."

In general, getting started with IM requires little more

than downloading one of the various instant-messaging "clients" and registering with the system on which that software operates. Registration typically requires such particulars as your name and e-mail address, as well as the selection of a



screen name and password (other, optional information may be requested, too). Whenever you go online, the client software will automatically check to see which other registered users are online at the time.

Harvard's Zittrain believes that the appeal of IM springs from the technology's simplicity, and from the fact that it simulates the most basic form of conversation. "What you're seeing with the boom in technology, the pervasiveness of all these machines," he says, "is a kind of backlash in which people feel the need to use that technology to reach out and connect on a human level. Instant messaging is the perfect example."

But Zittrain also argues that such advances raise fundamental questions about our culture's hunger for new methods of connection. "The problem is that a technology like this actually has the effect of eroding privacy," he says. "Because once you come online, you announce yourself as part of a community. It may eventually get to the point where you can't get anything done because you're too available."

Some IM users share Zittrain's wariness. "I found the whole concept forced a certain intimacy that I didn't want," says Karen Lowry, a book editor who lives in New Haven, Connecticut. "I would go online and immediately think about sending someone a message—not because I really wanted to talk with them, but just because I could." And even such IM aficionados as Camille Morris—a graduate student in Charlotte, North Carolina, who has been a regular ICQ user for the past six months—are fearful that the new technology will invite a deluge of unwanted ads, chain letters, and virus-bearing messages into their personal computers. Software developers are working to allay these concerns. Most services have privacy features that allow users to block unwanted correspondents. And where software can't solve the problems, software users can. Morris says that her IM system is "more like a private line, like the red phone in the president's office. It's reserved for a select inner circle."


Are there any other problems with this burgeoning technology? Well, yes. At the moment, the biggest hurdle between instant messaging and world domination is the fact

that the various competing services can't interface with one another. "What you have with this technology is a classic example of what we call *network effect*," says Zittrain. "Put in English, what that means is that, for any given person, the network is not particularly useful until a lot of other people are using it. Once you somehow manage to force enough people to be there, then everyone wants to be there. What that means is that a shakeout is inevitable."

Make that "a shakeout is in progress": In June, America Online purchased Mirabilis for \$287 million. "With the merger, AOL becomes the 900-pound gorilla in the IM space," says Kevin Werbach, the managing editor of *Release 1.0*, a monthly technology newsletter. Many smaller IM companies, distressed by AOL's acquisition of ICQ, are pushing for the adoption of a standard IM protocol. In fact, just such a protocol has been proposed by Microsoft and is under review by the Internet Engineering Task Force, an international group that studies Net standards.

AOL doesn't appear eager to back an open standard. "Historically, [AOL] has supported open standards," says Goldberg, the company's spokeswoman. But she adds, "There is no standard at this point, and we're not proposing a standard. We listen to what consumers have to say. Consumers should decide what they want—not engineers." (AIM has left at least one indelible mark on the IM world: the term *buddy list*, used to describe a set of online correspondents.)

What, then, is the future of IM? If the Yahoo! Pager is any indication, the systems will be used not only for chat but also to disseminate customized information. Indeed, Yahoo! producer Brian Park argues that IM represents the next generation of "push" technology (whereby data is delivered and updated automatically). There are also significant advertising implications. Werbach says he suspects AOL will use its IM services to extend the brand name, expand the user base, and sell that thriving user community to advertisers. In addition, IM companies will surely sell banner ads in the IM windows that point to advertisers' Web sites. And Zittrain notes that the very act of signing up for a service "gives these companies good information on you that can later be used for marketing. You may just want to talk or conduct business more efficiently. But they've got things to sell. To them, you're ultimately a consumer."

The inevitability of a prominent marketing presence draws a mixed reaction. Morris, for one, says that she doesn't want AOL to turn ICQ into a "big, dopey billboard." But others are more sanguine. "At this point," says Werbach, "ad banners are pretty much standard fare on the Net. What people care about is finding one system that will put them in touch with the most people." 

Steven Almond is a writer and editor living in Somerville, Massachusetts. He does not respond to instant messages.

Getting on the Same Page

A thumbnail guide to the top IM systems

AOL Instant Messenger

Pros: Link transfer (i.e., the ability to handle HTML), text styles (italics, font sizing, etc.), and a simple interface

Cons: Has some weaknesses in group chat and file transfer

Get it @: www.aol.com or
Keyword: AIM

Ding!

Pros: Group chat, file transfer, searchable user directory

Cons: Cramped and unattractive message windows

Get it @: www.verse.com

ichat Pager

Pros: Group chats, file transfer, and a user directory

Cons: Hard to use, poor message-window design

Get it @: www.ichat.com

ICQ

Pros: Link and file transfers,

group chat, e-mail notification (i.e., pager alerts you when new e-mail arrives)

Cons: Design of message windows could be improved

Get it @: www.mirabilis.com

PeerChat

Pros: Thousands of shortcuts speed along conversations

Cons: Conversations must start via e-mail

Get it @: www.peerchat.com

PeopleLink

Pros: Group chat, simple interface, two-way buddy lists

Cons: No link or file transfer

Get it @: www.peoplelink.com

Yahoo! Pager

Pros: User profiles, e-mail notification, link transfer

Cons: No file transfer

Get it @: pager.yahoo.com

WaveTop. Easier to get than a hotdog at a ball game.



What you get with WaveTop:

Rich multimedia content broadcast directly to your home PC. No modem connection or monthly charges necessary. Instant access to content stored automatically on your PC hard drive. No waiting for your favorite channels to appear. Video clips, music samples, updated news, great games and fast software downloads — complementing your Internet service.

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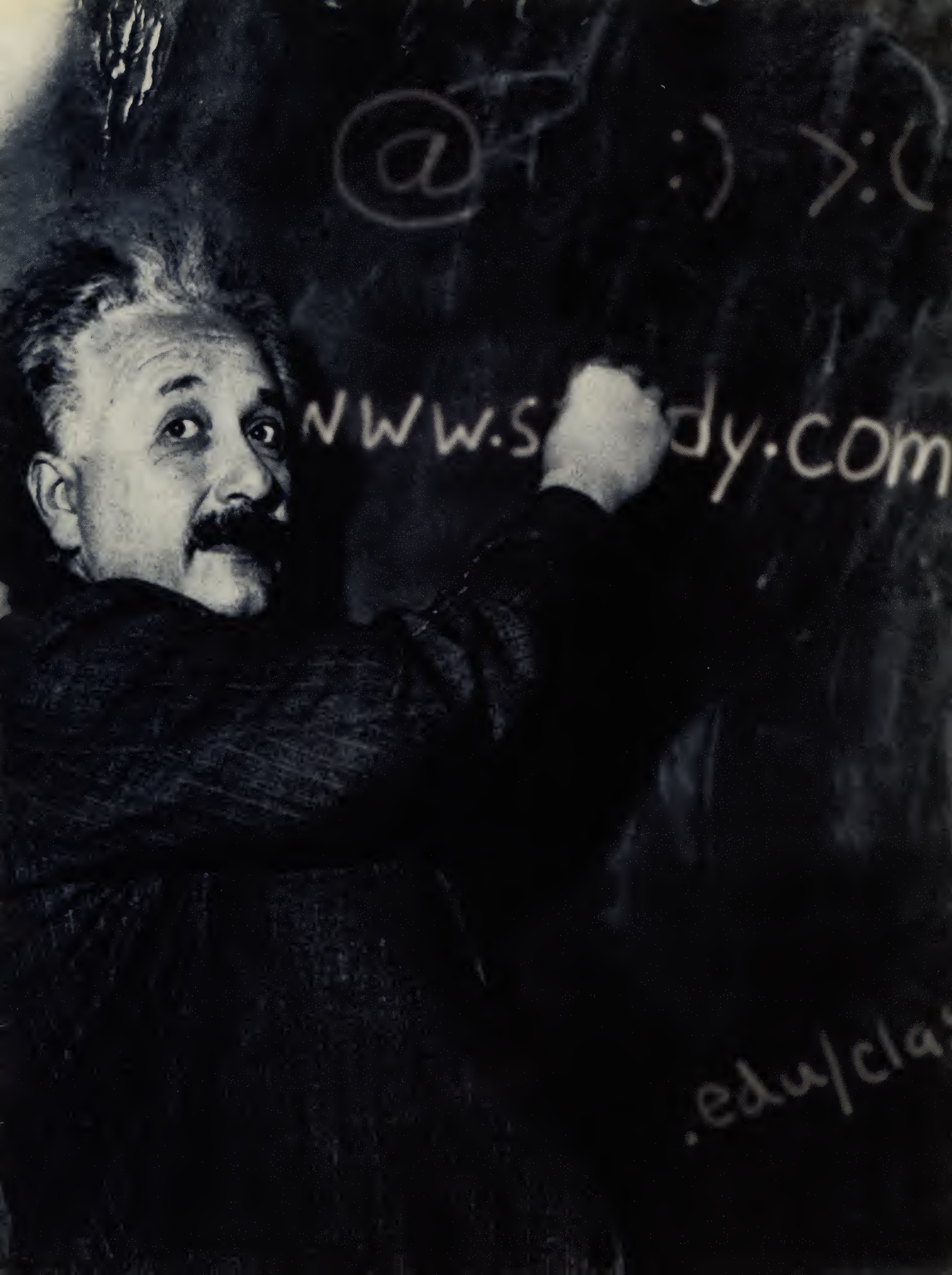
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as well as parents and kids*

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by Dina Gan



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.edu/class

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If you think the Web has little to offer except mindless entertainment, take a look at this index, which links to 500-plus exemplary sites and demonstrates just how effective the Web can be as an interactive learning tool. Search by subject or keyword to uncover educational adventures that range from an online exploration of the inner workings of the automobile to a virtual journey to the center of the sun, plus all manner of academic study aids in between.

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IDEAL provides online access to 175 Academic Press journals, from the *Annals of Botany* to *The Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*. Guests can read abstracts for free, while registered users (students affiliated with licensed institutions) can view the full text of articles.

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Educators, parents, and students alike can make use of this selective database of more than 56,000 education-related sites, which is browsable by topic or searchable by keyword. New features appear every week, designed to help educators and the educated keep track of lesson plans, books, Web sites, and current events.

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With a collection of more than 69,000 "research-quality" URLs,

this site helps students excel throughout their academic careers—kindergarten through college. All sites have been previewed, reviewed, and rated for grade-level appropriateness, and all are searchable by subject or keyword. Click on the Study Buddy, "the researcher's virtual companion," and a small tool bar pops up alongside your browser, providing you with a virtual encyclopedia, dictionary, thesaurus, calculator, and currency converter within easy reach.

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OneLook Dictionaries

Sure, any old dictionary will have the definition for *coruscate*, but where would you go for the meaning of a more esoteric word, such as *grepping*? Type your mystery word into OneLook, which will instantly search through more than 287 dictionaries and glossaries, including ones specialized for business, sports, medicine, technology, religion, and science, as well as such general dictionaries as Webster's, of course.

www.onelook.com

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The Online Books Page

Dickens is online, as are Balzac, Conrad, George Eliot, Tolstoy, Twain, and others. And they're all available through this massive index, which links to the full text of more than 7,000 books.

www.cs.cmu.edu/books.html

Roget's Internet Thesaurus

A favorite among book lovers, this synonym and antonym reference

is online in a quick, fully searchable edition. How convenient is it to use? It will even find you synonyms for *thesaurus*.

www.thesaurus.com

Web Thesaurus Compendium

Like OneLook, this site links to a variety of specialized sources in order to help you find that elusive *mot juste*.

www.cui.darmstadt.gmd.de/~lutes/thesauri.html

Encyclopedia.com

With more than 17,000 cross-linked articles from the third edition of the Concise Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, this is one of the best free online encyclopedias around.

www.encyclopedia.com

Bartlett's Familiar Quotations

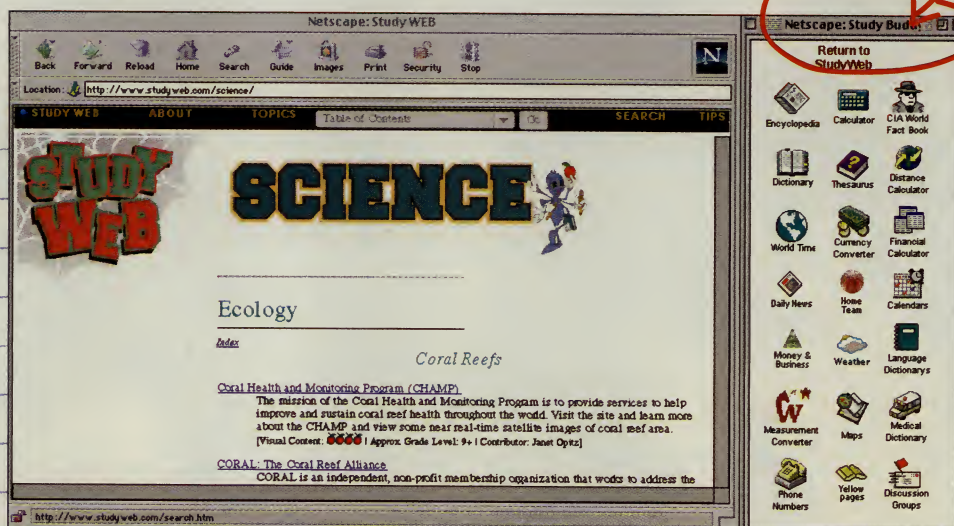
Where's the best place to collect famous quotes from the usual suspects, such as Shakespeare? *Bartlett's*, of course (though this online edition isn't the latest).

www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/bartlett

The Land of Quotes

After you're finished with *Bartlett's*, book passage for The Land of Quotes, which includes quips and

StudyWeb: Launch the Study Buddy tool bar



aphorisms from more contemporary voices, such as Maya Angelou and Steve Wozniak.
www.quoteland.com

Research-It!

Sometimes you don't have time to look for dictionaries in one place and thesauruses in another place. At times like those, you'll be thrilled that there's a site such as Research-It!, which has forms for dictionary searches, thesaurus searches, maps, currency converters, and more.
www.ITools.com/research-it/research-it.html

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Pitsco's Ask an Expert

So maybe you're a little too shy to stay after class and ask the teacher for help. No matter. Just visit this site and link to more than 300 Web sites and e-mail addresses that put you in the hands of those wiser and more experienced than yourself.
www.askanexpert.com/askanexpert

FAST FACTS

Fedstats

This site is by far the best place to find the statistics compiled by more than 70 agencies of the U.S. government.
www.fedstats.gov

Infonation

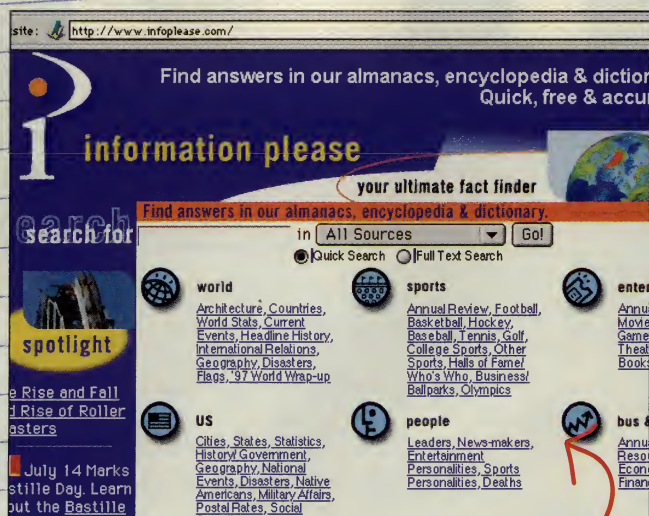
If your statistical ambitions are a bit more international, visit this site for official data on member countries of the United Nations.
www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/infonation/e_infonation.htm

Information Please

Who discovered plutonium? (No, it wasn't Kurt Russell.) Who won the U.S. Open in 1963? (Charlemagne is close,



*CIA '97 World Factbook:
Keep track of global shifts*



*Information Please:
Excellent general reference*

but again, not correct.) Who was the 28th U.S. president? (Not only was Andre the Giant not the 28th president, he was never president at all.) This online version of the popular almanac will help you clear up that nasty ignorance rash.
www.infoplease.com

CIA '97 World Factbook

If you've recently embarrassed yourself by pontificating on the wretched conditions in Zaire, come here to learn that the nation has changed its name to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook

HOW TO WRITE A PAPER

More and more, students are using the Internet to help them write papers, whether those papers are fifth-grade book reports or college honors theses. Researching in the online world requires slightly different skills than the old-fashioned way does.

1. Grasp the process.

The Purdue On-Line Writing Laboratory has put together a step-by-step guide to writing research papers—from outline development to note taking to effective paraphrasing. There's even special emphasis on the Net as a research tool.
owl.english.purdue.edu/Files/ResearchPapers.html

2. Don't forget to cite your online sources.

The Modern Language Association (MLA) has established guidelines for citing Web sources. Defy them at your own peril.
www.mla.org/main_stl.htm#sources

3. Beware of false information.

With the huge volume of new Web sites, sometimes it's difficult to determine if data is reliable. Evaluating Internet Based Information will help with the basics.
www.lme.mankato.msus.edu/class/629/Cred.HTML

WHY CAN'T JOHNNY SURF?

You can never get wired too early.
Here's a list of the best education sites for the K-12 crowd

The Children's Literature Web Guide

The Children's Literature Web Guide will give you some idea of how those 26 little letters we know and love have been combined to create an infinite body of literary work. Master the world of reading with links to sites containing information on every author and book illustrator whom you're likely to come across in your formative years, from Beatrix Potter to Mark Twain. Find out where to access the full texts of books online, or visit sites where students publish original creative writing.

www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown

Guide to Grammar and Writing

At some point, kids stop reading and start writing. This guide will help them learn everything from punctuation rules to the principles behind the traditional five-paragraph essay.

webster.commnet.edu/HP/pages/darling/grammar.htm

Kids Did This in Social Studies!

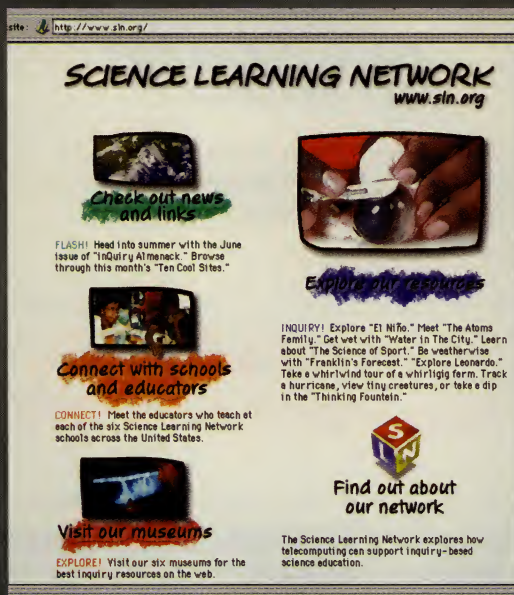
This site links to actual papers and virtual presentations created by students online. Read a report on the War of 1812 written by a gifted third grader, peruse biographies of famous Americans penned by fifth graders, or surf through a hypertext time line of U.S. history assembled by elementary-school students from Oregon.

sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/kid-hist.html

The Math Forum Student Center

Got a case of math anxiety? The Math Forum Student Center is the cure. Resources are conveniently arranged by grade level—elementary school through college and beyond. You'll find hundreds of links to interactive tutorials, practice problems, tips and tricks, and even math mailing lists. For those persistent puzzlers you need answers to fast, check the archives of Ask Dr. Math. If your query is more esoteric ("How are quadratic equations used in the real world?"), send it by e-mail and site staffers will try to answer within a few days. If you fancy yourself a math whiz, take a look at the Student Showcase, where third graders are displaying computer-generated tessellations and high-schoolers are dabbling in bivariate data analysis.

forum.swarthmore.edu/students



SCIENCE LEARNING NETWORK: VIRTUALLY DISSECT A COW'S EYE

Her top picks are posted at Surfing the Net with Kids and organized both chronologically and by topic. Impress the progeny by pointing out choice places to learn about geography, history, language arts, math, and science. But before letting the kids loose with the mouse, parents should take a look at the section called Safety on the Net, which has Feldman's guidelines for kids' online usage.

www.surfnetskids.com

Web66: A K12 World Wide Web Project

Whether you're setting up a Web server for your school or just looking for a lesson plan, Web66: A K12 World Wide Web Project is the best place to begin your journey down that endless information superhighway. Mustang: A Web Cruising Vehicle is your primary mode of transportation toward selecting educational Web resources, integrating them into the curriculum, and implementing them in the classroom. If you're a teacher who doubles as your school's honorary techie, there are step-by-step guides to setting up servers, local area networks (LANs), and wide area networks (WANs)—just about everything you'll need to get networked. Once your school gets a home page, add it to the Web66: International School Web Site Registry, which links to more than 13,000 schools (with more on the way) from all over the world.

web66.coled.umn.edu

Science Learning Network

Do you and your science textbook lack that special chemistry? Let this site stimulate those brain cells. Get acquainted with the Atoms Family, play at the science of hockey, virtually dissect a cow's eye, or view images magnified by a scanning electron microscope (warning: objects are up to 200,000 times smaller than they appear). Each online educational module was developed by science museums in partnership with schools across the country. Once your interest is sparked, the site links to plenty of others that might be able to slake your thirst for scientific knowledge.

www.sln.org

Surfing the Net with Kids

Barbara J. Feldman, syndicated columnist and mother of two, scours the Web every week to find five great educational sites for young minds.

Charting Courses: Subjects A-Z

ACCOUNTING

AccountingStudents

The research guide at AccountingStudents includes links to Big Six firms, Beta Alpha Psi chapters, federal and state tax sites, and educational resources at universities and colleges worldwide. But students will also appreciate the practical nature of such articles as "How Do I Sell Myself to Recruiters?" and "Writing Tips for Non-Writers."
www.accountingstudents.com

AMERICAN STUDIES

American Studies Crossroads Project

The American Studies Crossroads Project provides access to online libraries, primary texts, and special collections relevant to the field. Search through current and back issues of *American Quarterly* or abstracts of American Studies dissertations, or find out how to subscribe to the most popular American Studies e-mail discussion lists.
www.georgetown.edu/crossroads

ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology Resources on the Internet

With as many links as there are artifacts at an Egyptian excavation, Anthropology Resources on the Internet points to sites on archaeological, linguistic, cultural, and physical anthropology. Dig a little deeper for links to journals and field schools, as well as an e-mail directory of anthropologists.
www.nitehawk.com/alleycat/a-index.html

ARCHITECTURE

Cyurbia.org

What do you call a well-designed

site with thousands of links to Internet resources for the built environment, including a bookstore, a discussion board, and a 'zine called Place? Cyurbia.org, of course.

www.arch.buffalo.edu/pairc

ART HISTORY

The Art History Research Centre

According to the introductory essay at the Art History Research Centre, "It will become more important that researchers check the net in addition to the traditional media which store information of interest to art historians." Check here for the best links to articles, academic journals, collections, and museums on the Web.

www-fofa.concordia.ca/arth/AHRC/index.htm

BIOLOGY

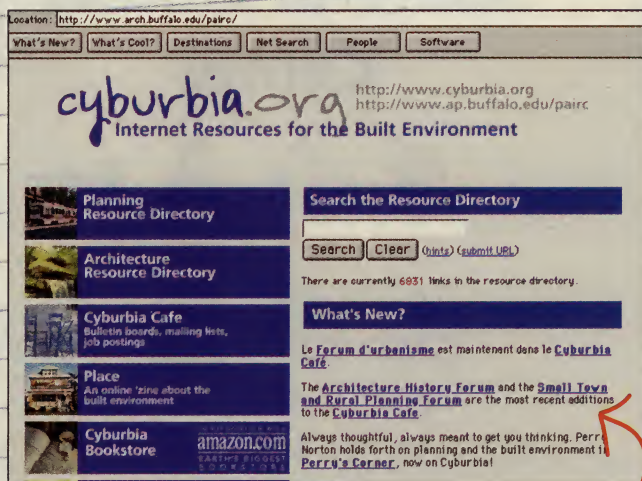
The Biology Project

If your professor is a total bore, this site, sponsored by the University of Arizona, is a wonderful alternative way to learn basic concepts, from biochemistry to molecular biology. Colorful illustrations let you visualize such things as cell mitosis as if you were small enough to be there. Each topic links to related sites on the Web.
www.biology.arizona.edu

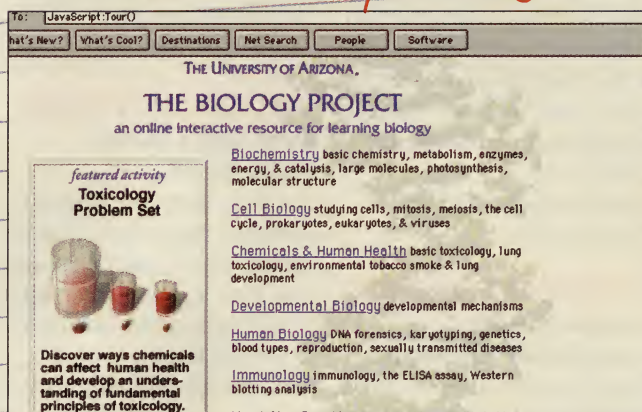
BUSINESS

Virtual International Business and Economic Sources (VIBES)

Want to wow your professor with your next paper on international patents? Visit this one-stop shop for global, national, and regional sites related to business topics from banking to trade issues.
www.uncc.edu/lis/library/reference/intbus/vibehome.htm



Cyurbia.org: Forums on architectural history and town planning



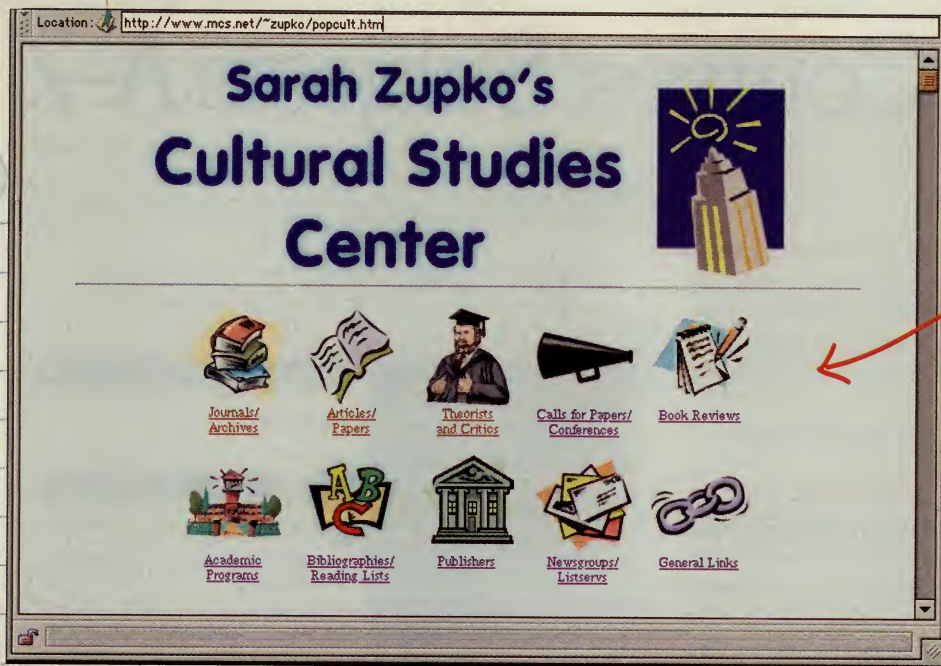
The Biology Project: Interactive activities illustrate mitosis and other scientific concepts

CHEMISTRY

General Chemistry Online!

Atoms and ions and gases, oh my! Sponsored by Maryland's Frostburg State University, General Chemistry Online! makes chemistry a breeze to study, with its basic online text that's fully hy-

perlinked to sources around the Web. You'll also find a cheeky Chemistry Exam-Survival Guide, a pop-up link that brings up the periodic table of the elements, and tutorials aplenty.
antoine.fsu.umd.edu/chem/senese/101



sarah
Zupko's
Cultural
studies
Center:
Dozens of
book reviews,
plus a spe-
cial sci-fi
section

CLASSICS

Electronic Resources for Classicists

This is an astonishingly complete site with links to every classics page online, whether the subject is the Bibliotheca Latina or the Ovid Project. You'll even find fonts and software to display what's Greek to you.

www.tlg.uci.edu/~tlg/index/resources.html

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science Undergraduate Tutor Service

Need help on a complex problem? Richard Suchoza's site can give you an in-depth answer (in a week to 10 days) or at least guide you toward the solution (within 2 days).

ww2.netnitco.net/users/suchoza/tutor.htm

CREATIVE WRITING

Inkspot

Author Robert Cormier once said: "The beautiful part of writing is that you don't have to get it right the first time, unlike, say, a brain surgeon. You can always do it better, find the exact word, the apt phrase, the

leaping simile." This site will help students of writing do exactly that, as well as acquaint them with more practical aspects of the craft, such as marketing their work.

www.inkspot.com

CULTURAL STUDIES

Sarah Zupko's Cultural Studies Center

For those lucky few allowed to write term papers about popular culture, Sarah Zupko's site will help them wax academic about everything from *Star Trek* to post-Soviet subculture.

www.mcs.net/~zupko/popcult.htm

DRAMA

The Intuitons College Theatre Guide

Find links to the full texts of plays, or locate sources on scriptwriting, actor networking, and even costume design. Also, visit the home pages of college theater companies nationwide.

dolphin.upenn.edu/~intuiton/guide/newguide.html

ECONOMICS

EcEdWeb

The name stands for Economics

Education Web, and the site lives up to the name, with links to a wide variety of resources for economics education at the K-12 and undergraduate levels. EcEdWeb points to every site you're likely to need to study the subject, from *The Wall Street Journal's* Classroom Edition to the World Bank Group's home page.

ecedweb.unomaha.edu

ENGINEERING

ICE: Internet Connections for Engineering

ICE is Cornell University's trim index of sites covering all the hard sciences. It includes subsections on aerospace, biological, civil, electrical, mechanical, nuclear, and quality engineering.

www.englib.cornell.edu/ice/ice-index.html

ENGLISH

The Voice of the Shuttle: English Literature Main Page

The Voice of the Shuttle has links for the student researching works taught in English and American literature courses. It covers Anglo-Saxon, medieval, Renaissance, and Victorian writ-

ing, as well as contemporary works. Locate writers from Alice Walker to Oscar Wilde.

humanitas.ucsb.edu/shuttle/english.html

ETHNIC STUDIES

Diversity and Ethnic Studies: Virtual Community

Instead of trifling with colorful graphics and metaphors that are so condescending as to be insulting (e.g., rainbows equal progress), this site offers its visitors a focused set of links to resources pertaining to the African-American, Asian-American, American Indian, and Latin-American communities.

www.public.iastate.edu/~savega/divweb2.htm

HISTORY

Mr. Jenkins' History Links

Because history is always in the making, Mr. Jenkins has designed this site to help high-school and college students with the "endless search for quality historical research material." Well-organized links connect visitors to the ancient world, the modern world, and more.

www.snowcrest.net/jmike

112K Modems Have Arrived!



This kind of
excitement hasn't
been felt since
that Oklahoma
real-estate boom.



Though these modem/modem technologies are capable of 56Kbps/112Kbps download performance, line impairments, public telephone infrastructure and other external technological factors currently prevent maximum 56Kbps/112Kbps connections. © 1998 Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. Diamond, the Diamond logo, and SupraSonic are registered trademarks of Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc. SupraExpress, the Shotgun Technology logo, and Shotgun are trademarks of Diamond Multimedia Systems, Inc. Rockwell and the Rockwell logo are trademarks of Rockwell International. All other trademarks or registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

The rush is on! Because right now, Diamond's Shotgun-enabled modems are available at retailers all across the country. Diamond's exclusive Shotgun technology delivers a double barrel of bandwidth by combining the capacity of two separate phone lines. So you get connection speeds up to 112K. And Shotgun technology is available today, in Diamond's power-**SHOTGUN**ful new modems. TECHNOLOGY

THE FASTEST ACCESS OVER ORDINARY PHONE LINES.



Rockwell

The innovative SupraSonic II delivers Internet access to 112K by

integrating two 56K modems on a single board. Just plug it into two ordinary phone lines for the fastest dial-up anywhere. Plus, the SupraSonic II includes Shotgun technology which monitors your phone activity, releasing your fax or voice line for incoming calls. Diamond also offers Shotgun-enabled 56K modems, like the SupraExpress, that can be combined with your existing modem for dual-line access speeds. Best of all, Diamond features other cutting-edge modem technologies for superior compatibility and performance. They're Microsoft Windows 98 certified to take advantage of your upgraded PC's capabilities. And they're designed with the 56K standard (V.90) and Rockwell's K56flex technology for widespread Internet provider support. In fact, national ISPs like Netcom already support Shotgun Technology. So, to get a jump on the crowds, get a Shotgun-enabled modem today.



Enter the Shotgun Sweepstakes at
<http://www.diamondmm.com/shotgun>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

STRATNET: Strategic Studies Network

It's not a small world after all, but STRATNET can be a student's compass for navigating the complex world of international relations, security, and politics. Whether you need to know more about arms control, human rights, or NATO, you'll find enough information to create world peace—or at least write a paper on it.

www.stratnet.ucalgary.ca

LINGUISTICS

Ethnologue

For quick facts on more than 6,700 languages spoken in 228 countries, refer to this formidable database, where you can learn the linguistic classifications for such obscure dialects as Abnaki-Penobscot.

www.sil.org/ethnologue

MATHEMATICS

S.O.S. MATHematics

Forget about asking Dr. Math—the credo at S.O.S. MATHematics is, "You can only learn Mathematics by doing Mathematics!" With pencil in hand, review work sheets on collegiate and precollegiate math at this site from the University of Texas at El Paso. If you're beyond algebra, trigonometry, and calculus, refer to the section on other math-related Web sites.

www.math.utep.edu/sosmath

MUSIC

Sibelius Academy: Music Resources

Seems as though there's not much else to do in Finland except compile the cleanest set of music links around. Put up by the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, this site has links to music education, theory, research, and schools in more than 37 countries.

www.siba.fi/Kulttuuripalvelut/music.html

PHILOSOPHY

Episteme Links

Woody Allen once lamented, "Can we actually 'know' the universe? My God, it's hard enough to find your way around in Chinatown!" Fortunately, this site isn't hard to comprehend at all. Find pointers to great thinkers from Anaxagoras to Ludwig Wittgenstein, plus e-texts, papers, journals, newsgroups, and, of course, humor.

www.epistemelinks.com

PHYSICS

The Internet Pilot to Physics

Pick a trajectory, any trajectory. The Internet Pilot to Physics won't

POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Jefferson Project

With links to the right, the left, the radical, and the libertarian, as well as political personalities and issues and activists, this site has all the government resources you'll ever need.

www.voxpop.org/jefferson

PSYCHOLOGY

Psych Web

Students won't go insane here by trying to find resources appropriate to their course of study. Everything is neatly arranged by category, including books, brochures, and scholarly journals. Psych majors will love the career-tip sheets, with advice on such

and remarked upon by this page's creator, who is an associate professor at the University of Florida.

SOCIOLOGY

The SocioWeb: Your Independent Guide to Sociological Resources on the Internet

"The sociologist, in his quest for understanding, moves through the world of men without respect for the usual lines of demarcation." Good thing SocioWeb doesn't subscribe to this Peter Berger dictum, or else the site wouldn't be such an orderly arrangement of links to sociological theory, research, and education.

www.socioweb.com/~markbl/socioweb

WOMEN'S STUDIES

inforM: Women's Studies Resources

Housed at the University of Maryland at College Park, this is a vast storehouse of primary research materials as well as secondary indexes of links. Among the offerings are a reading room with full texts of papers and books by and about women and a film section with feminist reviews of mainstream and independent movies.

www.inform-umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/WomensStudies

ZOOLOGY

BIOSIS: Internet Resource Guide for Zoology

BIOSIS seems deceptively spare at first glance, but click around for a while and you get the sense that if all the worthwhile animate-life sites were spread out like branches from a tree, this site would be squarely planted at the root. Locate sites on every living thing, from chordates to vertebrates.

www.york.biosis.org/zrdocs/zoolinfo/zoolinfo.htm

inform: Film reviews from a feminist perspective

Location: <http://www.inform-umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/WomensStudies/>

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Women's Studies Resources

The women's studies database, created in September 1992, serves those people interested in the women's studies profession and in general women's issues. The database contains collections of conference announcements, calls for papers, and employment opportunities, as well as a picture gallery, and a significant number of government documents, and much more. If you have questions or comments, please contact the database coordinator at ikofman@info.umd.edu.

lead you off course. Its Physics Around the World database is searchable (or browsable by category: Computing, Media, Companies, and so forth). Note the Virtual Laboratory section, which links directly to sites where applets and virtual-reality modeling are utilized to demonstrate such complicated physics concepts as projectile motion and radioactive decay.

www.tp.umu.se/TIPTOP

topics as Suggested Courses to Acquire Skills Employers Want.

www.psych-web.com

RELIGION

Religion Religions Religious Studies

This faithfully updated page is subdivided into easily grasped topics, from Afro-European and Asian traditions to new and alternative religions. Each of the page's sites has been reviewed

Not the whole Internet.



(just the good parts)

YAHOO!
Internet Life

Subscribe now to get great savings and a FREE CD-ROM!

<http://subscribe.yil.com/free>

incredibly USEFUL sites™

INTERPRET ANY SYMBOL OR SIGN

We are creatures of symbols, and some of us even define our distinctiveness from other life forms by our ability to create, understand, and manipulate symbols. Many of the graphics in Symbols.com's huge database are ancient ideograms, pictograms, and other "grams" even older than your Gram. The index takes some getting used to, but once you've figured it out, you can browse to your heart's delight. Discover arcane symbols of alchemy and early sciences, or key in on a specific sign you've seen in a book or on a pre-



historic stone to learn its meaning and something of its background. This is truly the Web's Rosetta stone for hobbyists, archaeologists, anthropologists, and cryptographers—both amateur and professional.
www.symbols.com



READ EVERY NIGHT SKY

Deborah Byrd wants you to see intelligently in the darkness of your backyard. So every day at Tonight's Sky, she points out something interesting to view in that evening's heavenly show (or, perhaps, in the celestial orb sometime early the next morning). Each entry comes with an easy-to-understand sky chart that tells you in which direction to point yourself; which of those shiny, shimmering dots she's talking about; and a little bit of a story about each. In addition, there's a knowledgeable, money-saving feature about buying the best telescope. We may be just dust in the solar wind, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't get the most out of the show.
www.earthsky.com/Features/Skywatching

EXAMINE MEDICAL JOURNALS

It's easy to find medical information online. It's just not easy to find the right information or facts that have some legitimate backing. And the hunt can be strenuous: lots of search-engine usage, lots of back-and-forth and heading down circuitous routes that end up where you began. Let WebMedLit be your easy-to-navigate, one-stop-shopping spot for solid medical info. *The American Journal of Epidemiology*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and 20 other current issues of periodicals are available. Either search by keyword or browse specific topics—AIDS/Virology, Cardiology, Women's Health, Cancer/Oncology, and more. It's a remarkably helpful service for both medical professional and curious novice. "Efficient access" is the goal of the site, and the operation is successful.
www.webmedlit.com

LOG ON WHILE ABROAD

We don't know who Steve Kropla is, but he's our kind of guy. Most travel sites tell you where to stay, where to eat, how much to tip, and how to get around. Not the Help for World Travelers site. Steve wants to make sure that

once you've arrived wherever you're going, you can plug in your laptop and its modem. Find out which types of phone plugs are used where and whether you'll need an adapter—or even a transformer—at your destination. Great for the business traveler, this is also a terrific place for the soon-to-be tourist who wants to get away from it all and yet be umbilically tied to it, too.
www.kropla.com



EVALUATE LOCAL POLLUTION LEVELS

Those who enjoy inhaling and exhaling might find the Chemical Scorecard disturbing and even scary, but they won't deny that it's vital and incredibly illuminating. Provided by the Environmental Defense Fund, it asks you for your ZIP code, then gives you a report on which chemicals are being pumped into your neighborhood air and water, by whom, and to what potential health effect. For those who want to know how bad-

Each month, we gather all the sites we think offer wonderfully practical services



ly their community is being polluted—or those who are thinking of moving to a new location and might be concerned about what's in the air and water awaiting their arrival—there are pollution rankings. There's also background on which conditions might be caused or worsened by contact with these substances. This is all coming from an environmental-activist group, but just because they're dedicated to a political agenda of cleaning up the environment for future generations doesn't mean they're bending the facts to make their point.

www.scorecard.org

KNOW YOUR PROFESSIONAL WORTH

Are you getting paid what you're worth at work? Do you have any idea what the major professions' salaries are? What can you expect to earn when you get out of college? JobSmart Salary Surveys will fill

you in on growth areas, in-demand jobs, skills, and moolah using information from various sources, including the government and major magazines. The profession-specific salary surveys cover jobs from accounting to warehousing. You'll come away from here knowing what your take-home pay is likely to be (or ought to be). You might even find yourself rethinking your career goals. This site can be ultraimportant to anyone who plans on working and spending in the future. Sound like anyone you know? jobsmart.org/tools/salary/sal-surv.htm

COOK USING PACKAGED FOODS

The genius of Recipes from Nancy's Kitchen is that she realizes we all don't usually make puff pastry or something requiring, say, an ingredient grown (and available) only in Provence. And most of us—fess up!—get hives thinking about preparing a

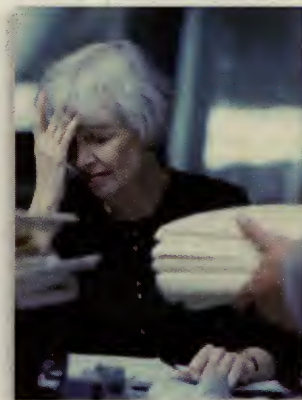
meal entirely from scratch. Thus, a collection of recipes and recipe sites that show us how to make dishes from common, everyday foodstuffs. Click on Brand Name Recipes and find easy, fast recipes using StarKist tuna, Campbell's Soup, NutraSweet, Jiffy Mix, Oreos, and Crisco. This is stuff we can find; this is stuff we can make.

members.amaonline.com/nrogers/Kitchen/index.html

ASSESS YOUR JOB-CHANGE READINESS

Maybe the very thought of Monday ruins your entire week. Maybe people are always asking you, "Found work yet?" and you're always responding, "I'm working on it." Or maybe you have a job but tell everybody you're committed to finding a new one. If so, you need the Employment Search Readiness Inventory. It'll tell you whether you're doing all you can to land that next paid gig, or whether you're kidding your-

self about your desire for a new job. This site will tell you if your search is organized and potentially successful or yet another go-cart to Nowheresville.



Answer the 13 multiple-choice questions (e.g., "Do you carry your business card with you at all times?"), click the Give Results button, and see if you're in the starting lineup or just a spectator in the stands.

www.careerweb.com/inventory

FIND AN ACCOUNTANT

Accountant Finder will find you a local number cruncher. And not just any spreadsheet generalist: You can limit the search to certified public accountants, public accountants, insolvency accountants, or just enrolled agents (they're the ones authorized to go to bat for you at the IRS). Conduct a search and your money will soon be in their hands.

www.cpafinder.com

Send us news of your useful find! Write us at useful@zd.com. And check our past picks at www.incrediblyuseful.com.



Site- reviews

Each month we send experts in various fields to seek out the best the Web has to offer. But first, a quick look at what's hot this month

new notable & fun!

RE.RE.RE.LAUNCH

BARNESANDNOBLE.COM. A more inviting facade dresses up B&N's expanded inventory and a new 1,000-title software section. barnesandnoble.com

SOUTH PARK. What's better than a year's supply of Cheesy-Poofs? Try Comedy Central's enhanced compilation of sound bites, video downloads, and other ephemera from that hapless hamlet. www.comedycentral.com/southpark

THE CARTOON BANK. The well-respected laugh factory ups its smile quotient with "Cartoon of the Hour." www.cartoonbank.com

DEJA NEWS. Delicately spoon-fed Usenet is the order of the day at this popular

newsgroup portal. Its editorial staff collects the best threads to help build nine subject-based content channels. www.dejanews.com

NEWS & REFERENCE

GREAT INTERNET GREY OUT. Find out why some Web sites will shed their graphics and colors for 24 hours on October 1 this year. www.greyday.org

BRILL'S CONTENT. The AOL version of *Brill's Content*, watchdog Steven Brill's new media-industry monitor, offers elements of its print edition while soliciting readers' opinions and story ideas. Keywords: *Brill's Content*

ASK THE SPEAKER. E-mail a question to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, or

read one of his recent speeches. Twice monthly, Gingrich selects a single query from the queue and answers it on-site. speakernews.house.gov/asknewt

MOON-WATCH.COM. Once you're done scanning world news, reach out for the most recent lunar events, fun facts, and photos. www.moon-watch.com



We can't all be astronauts, but Moon-Watch.com brings us light-years closer to the action.

IT'S ENTERTAINMENT

XGAMES. ESPN's new extreme-sports department includes in-line skating, sport climbing, and "skysurfing" reports. xgames.espn.com

THE BROWNSTONE. Six Webcams peep in on willing apartment dwellers. But alas, there's not half the drama found in the classic film the URL refers to. www.rearwindow.com

PERFORMANCE CHANNEL. Among the weekly art shows and poetry readings Webcasted here is Warhol comrade Taylor Mead's series of chats with artists, filmmakers, and other creative types. channelp.com

REAL RADIOS. Longing for Lisbon? This graphical directory points you to radio stations here and abroad that stream broadcasts onto the Web. www.realradios.com

BUSINESS & FINANCE

INVESTMENT CLUB CENTRAL. Recent surveys say Americans now invest more than they save. This site helps nascent

Y-LifeSiteTest



Hotel Reservations

We found the Web great for comparing rates among hotel chains and booking rooms in advance—as long as you're not looking for the honeymoon suite

ResearchSites

BEST INN DIRECTORY

INNSITE. If you prefer being awakened by a knock on the door and the promise of freshly baked muffins rather than by a wake-up call and cheap coffee, search for a bed-and-breakfast. InnSite lists bed-and-breakfasts in the U.S. as well as abroad, and most listings have extensive information to go with pictures of the inns and the surrounding areas.
www.innsite.com ★★★★★

BEST HOTEL-ROOM PREVIEWS

HOTELVIEW. So you say you want to look around your hotel room or hotel bar before you leave home? HotelView is a searchable archive of promotional videos for chain hotels. The chains represented range from Best Western and Holiday Inn to Hilton and Ritz-Carlton. You can see the exterior, the lobby,

the rooms, and the special features of each hotel. Inventory is very sparse so far, though—we found only four hotels listed for New York, and only three were listed for Las Vegas.
www.hotelview.com ★★★★★

BEST INSTRUCTION IN THE ART OF TRAVELING LIGHT

THE COMPLEAT CARRY-ON TRAVELER. As the new airline restrictions increasingly limit the size and number of carry-ons, the better-safe-than-sorry packing method is becoming a thing of the past. Going far beyond a simple list of “essentials,” the road warrior behind the Compleat Carry-On Traveler shares wisdom in both knowing what to take and how to fit it all in one suitcase. This site is definitely a tad obsessive, but it also contains a fair

amount of smart thinking.
www.oratory.com/travel ★★★★★

BEST TIPPING INFORMATION

CASTO'S TIPPING. Staying at a swanky hotel can be confusing if you're not a seasoned traveler. Whom—and how much—do you tip? Here you can find out the conventional tipping amounts for the bellhop, the maid, the room-service waiter, and other hotel employees.
www.casto.com/resource/tipping.cfm
★★★★★

BEST WAY TO GET SOME SLEEP

SLEEP & THE TRAVELER. Jet lag, stress, and noisy hotel neighbors are all factors that can conspire to make your trip a sleepless one. The National Sleep Foundation offers some tips for getting a little shut-eye in an unfamiliar environment.
www.healthtouch.com/level1/leaflets/sleep/sleep032.htm ★★★★★

BEST ALTERNATIVE TO PAYING FOR A ROOM

GO CAMPING AMERICA! This index of campgrounds and RV parks nationwide is searchable by amenity. Its listings even tell you which campgrounds are modem-friendly!
www.gocampingamerica.com ★★★★★

BEST INDEX OF DOG-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATIONS

TRAVELDOG. Don't want to leave Rover at home? Nervous, too, about taking him to a kennel for the duration of your trip? TravelDog has an impressive collection of phone numbers and addresses for canine-compatible chain hotels or specific resorts and retreats, such as mountain cabins. TravelDog also offers tips for safe and comfortable travel with your dog in tow, as well as listings of dog-friendly parks and beaches.
www.traveldog.com ★★★★★ —R.B.

Full-Service Sites

How good are the hotel-reservation services on the Net?

We went online to book rooms for four trips, checking both nationwide chains and travel hub sites. Here's what we found.



SEARCHABLE BY
CITY/STATE/ZIP?

SEARCHABLE BY AMENITIES?

SEARCHABLE BY PRICE RANGE?

INFO ON HOTEL DINING HOURS?

PHOTOS OF ROOM TYPES?

LOCAL MAP/
DRIVING DIRECTIONS?

NONSMOKING ROOM/
REQUESTABLE/PRESERVABLE?

CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED
ONLINE?

SAN FRANCISCO:
WEEKNIGHT [1]

HOUSTON: 2 WEEKNIGHTS
DOWNTOWN [2]

BOSTON: WEEKEND
FOR 2 [3]

NAGARA FALLS: 10-DAY
HONEYMOON [4]

NATIONWIDE HOTEL CHAINS

Best Western

www.bestwestern.com

CHOICE HOTELS

www.hotelchoice.com

DAYS INN

www.daysinn.com

EMBASSY SUITES

www.embassy-suites.com

Hampton Inn

www.hampton-inn.com

HILTON HOTELS

www.hilton.com

Holiday Inn

www.holiday-inn.com

Howard Johnson

www.hjo.com

HYATT

www.hyatt.com

Marriott

www.marriott.com

Radisson

www.radisson.com

Sheraton

www.sheraton.com

●/●/●	●	●	○	○	●/○	●/○	●	\$129	\$55 (Greenway Plaza)	\$109	\$99 (Inn on the River)
●/●/○	○	○	●	○	●/●	○/●	●	\$81	\$45	\$81 (suburb)	\$72
●/●/●	●	●	○	○	●/○	●/○	●	\$80	\$54	\$124	\$56
●/●/○	○	○	○	●	●/●	●/●	●	\$219	\$189	\$169	— [5]
●/●/○	○	○	○	●	●/●	●/●	●	\$84	\$82	\$105 (suburb)	\$87
●/●/○	○	○	○	○	●/●	●/○	●	\$245	\$190	\$270	— [5]
●/●/○	○	○	○	○	○/○	●/○	●	\$204	\$150 (Greenway Plaza)	\$230	\$160
●/●/●	●	●	○	○	●/○	●/●	●	\$69	\$45	\$130	\$69
●/●/○	○	○	○	○	●/●	●/○	●	\$255	\$139	\$284	\$160
●/●/○	●	○	●	○	●/●	●/○	●	\$209	\$169	\$329	\$159
●/●/○	○	○	●	○	●/●	●/●	●	\$169	\$89	\$269	— [5]
●/●/○	○	○	○	○	○/○	●/●	●	\$115	\$99	— [6]	\$109

TRAVEL HUB SITES

biztravel.com

www.biztravel.com

Filfo

www.filfo.com

preview travel

www.previewtravel.com

Travelocity ★

www.travelocity.com

TRAVELWEB

www.travelweb.com

●/○/●	○	○	○	○	○/○	●/●	○	\$89 Ramada Inn	\$59 Holiday Inn Express	\$89 Daystop	\$50 Ramada Inn
●/●/○	○	●	○	○	○/○	●/●	●	\$66 Vagabond	\$65 Best Western Fort Bend	\$72, Motel 6 (suburb)	— [5]
●/●/●	●	●	○	○	○/○	●/●	●	\$79 Travelodge	\$40 EconoLodge	— [7]	\$99, Best Western Inn on the River
●/○/○	○	●	●	○	○/○	○/○	●	\$66 Vagabond	\$46 Motel 6	\$109 Daystop	\$79, Best Western Summit Inn
●/●/●	●	○	○	○	●/○	○/○	●	\$79 Travelodge	\$47 Travelodge	\$119 Daystop	\$88, Comfort Suites, Buffalo

The Bottom Line

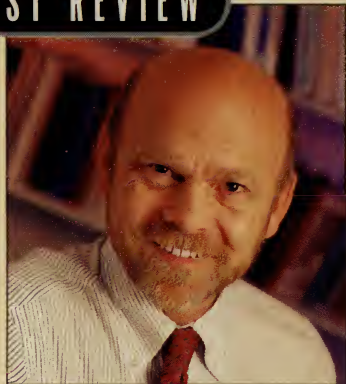
Just as travel agents can often uncover cheaper rates than those offered by individual travel providers, our tests have shown that travel hub sites frequently find better deals on airfare and car rentals. But when we looked for hotel rooms, we saw that the hub sites turned up cheaper rates only about half the time. Still, we recommend using these sites because, although they don't allow online can-

cellations, they do let you shop multiple hotel chains by price after you've made an initial geographical search. Our winning site, Travelocity, edged out the others because it's easy to shop by price, the search results are not overly broad, and the site serves both business and leisure travelers. It also ranked among the top five overall sites in finding inexpensive rooms.

★ = Winner. ● = The service offers this feature. ○ = The service does not offer this feature. [1] September 23–24: one adult, airport or downtown [2] September 22–24: one adult, downtown [3] September 25–27: two adults, downtown [4] September 18–27: two adults [5] No hotel was available within 100 miles. [6] No rooms were available for these dates. [7] We could find rooms, but this site's reservation system was unable to reserve any rooms.

Addiction & Recovery

GUEST REVIEW



SCOTT SCHULMAN

by Randall Webber

To educate health-and-human-services workers most effectively in street-drug pharmacology, substance-abuse prevention and treatment, and related topics, this trainer makes it his business to find the Web's richest resources

THE BEST ★★★★★

The phrase to remember in learning about addiction and recovery online is *caveat lector*. There is a lot of inaccurate information on the Web. There is also a lot of politically biased information: The issue of illicit drug use, for example, particularly with regard to marijuana, is a political hot potato, and many sites have clear biases for or against the use of psychoactive substances. But there are also many good, objective Web sites that you can trust. The **NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE** should be your first stop. The three

most impressive sections are NIDA Capsules (fact sheets that include the effects of, and research on, particular drugs), NIDA Notes (a bimonthly publication that focuses on cutting-edge research on drugs of abuse and related topics), and NIDA Infobox (a fax-back service). The rest of the site is meant for policy makers, educators, science students, and chemical dependency professionals. Teaching tools include Mind Over Matter, a six-part series for fifth through ninth graders about the effects of drugs on the body; and The Brain and the Actions of Cocaine, Opiates, and Marijuana, a full-color, detailed collection of teaching slides that can be ordered (along with a teach-

ing guide) or downloaded and imported into a presentation program such as PowerPoint.

www.nida.nih.gov ★★★★★

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM is the best site for learning about alcohol-abuse issues, beginning with an explanation of the nature, effects, and treatment of alcoholism. Publications from the alcohol research community are posted here, as are outlines of all the current research initiatives.

www.niaaa.nih.gov ★★★★★



RON ROY/ARPPG

The **NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG INFORMATION**, brought to you by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, predictably offers more statistics, research, and forums than any one person could ever use. If you're interested in attending a conference or getting involved in a public initiative or campaign, this site has all

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

Recovery Network features statistics about addiction and its consequences, information about 12-step and other recovery groups, a news service that surveys more than 1,400 publications daily, and a 24-hour hot line you can call to find help with substance-abuse problems. You can also listen to "Recovery Radio" (a daily radio show) and participate in Recovery Chats—discussions on various topics hosted by some of the finest minds in the field. (Dr. David Smith, founder of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic and one of America's premier addictionists, was the moderator for the first chat.) The links section con-

tains excellent connections to recovery programs for those afflicted with drug and alcohol problems, eating disorders, compulsive gambling, and tobacco addiction.

www.recoverynetwork.com

Rational Recovery believes in the use of reason and rational self-interest to solve alcohol- and drug-related problems. The literature online at its **Worldwide Web Rational Recovery Center** expresses the opinion that addicted individuals do not need to attend meetings (e.g., Alcoholics Anonymous) or enter chemical dependency treatment pro-

the contact information you'll need. Publications are available in both English and Spanish. This site also tracks developments in federal public policy concerning drug control.

www.health.org ★★★★★

CLOSE TO HOME ONLINE is the companion to the acclaimed five-part PBS series "Moyers on Addiction," hosted by Bill Moyers. It carries reports on the science of understanding and treating addiction, real-life stories from those struggling with addiction and recovery, editorials debating controversial policy issues, information on where to get help, a discussion forum, and some very good educational products. Users can also browse through a 13-issue soap opera comic-book series.

www.pbs.org/wnet/closetohome ★★★★★

Many of the most important journals in this field have yet to offer current issues or archives online, but there are two that do: **JOURNAL OF ADDICTIVE DISEASES**, the official journal of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, published quarterly; and **ADDICTION** (\$356/year for full access). www.asam.org/jol/journal.htm ★★★★★

www.carfax.co.uk/add-ad.htm ★★☆☆



Close to Home Online's comic-book series illustrates addiction's pitfalls.

THE REST ★★★★★

Think you know all there is to know about substance abuse? Take a quiz that gives virtually instant feedback on whether you really know more than other people online. **THE NATIONAL CENTER ON ADDICTION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** also features tes-

timonials about addiction, a discussion forum, and lots of reliable publications and reports.

www.casacolumbia.org

★★★★★

Besides providing a good introduction to the world of drug enforcement and the mission and history of the department, the U.S. Department of Justice's **DRUG ENFORCEMENT**

ADMINISTRATION has a listing of bad guys wanted by the DEA. *Drugs of Abuse* magazine features dozens of photographs of drugs in their natural and packaged states. www.usdoj.gov/dea ★★★★★

Randall Webber, M.P.H., is Director of Training and Publications, Lighthouse Institute at Chestnut Health Systems (www.chestnut.org), a nonprofit organization offering substance-abuse and behavioral-health research, evaluation, training, and publications.

RECOVERY WITHIN A CULTURAL CONTEXT

Substance-abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery are all much more effective when the cultural background of the individual being treated is taken into account. Herewith, then, is a sampling of organizations that stress religious or culturally specific means for overcoming substance-abuse problems.

Spirit of Freedom Ministries. Maintained by an Evangelistic Christian organization in Metairie, Louisiana, the site offers a toll-free phone line for individuals and families seeking help for addictions.

www.sofm.org

Christians in Recovery. Contains information and referrals for Christians who have a desire to recover not only from chemical dependency but also from family dysfunction, eating disorders, and sexual addiction.

www.christians-in-recovery.com

Jews in Recovery from Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. This site is tailored toward Jews and Jewish families whose lives have been affected by alcohol and drug addiction and for those professionals who help them.

www.jacsweb.org

Recovery Medicine Wheel is designed for the Native American community and incorporates its unique values and concepts.

www.recovery.org/aa/aa-related/medwheel.html

grams, but instead simply quit using, exert self-control, and address their problems in a sober condition. The site offers a crash course in such "planned abstinence," plus contact information.

rational.org/recovery

Secular Organizations for Sobriety has been described as "A.A. minus references to God or a higher power." Testimonials on coping with recovery fill the Sobriety Toolbox, and other helpful content includes book reviews and the *Sobriety Handbook: The SOS Way*.

www.unhooked.com

Women for Sobriety is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women overcome addictions. It was founded because of the frequently male-oriented atmosphere within A.A. and other recovery/self-help groups. Its Pen Pal program offers assistance and support to those women who cannot attend group meetings in person.

www.mediapulse.com/wfs

Moderation Management is a self-help group for people who believe that, through acceptance of personal responsibility for their drinking, some individuals can learn to drink appro-

priately. Those who use the MM approach to dealing with their alcohol problems could best be described as people who abuse alcohol but are not addicted to or dependent upon it. Moderation management promotes early recognition of alcohol-related consequences and the achievement of reduction in drinking. But there is a recognition that not everyone can learn to drink moderately and that such individuals should instead choose abstinence. The group's tenets are outlined online, with information on how to start a group and where to attend an existing group.

www.moderation.org

Arts & Crafts for Kids

THE BEST ★★★★★

Recent **FAMILY.COM ACTIVITIES** have included paper sculpture, nature crafts, and edible art.

family.disney.com/Categories/Activities

★★★★★

ON THE SERVICES

America Online Kids Only—Create. Here you'll find dozens of programs to download for painting and drawing, including Etch A Sketch and e-crayons.

Keywords: *KO Create*

MARK KISTLER'S ELECTRONIC PENCIL POWER PLAYGROUND is a great way for kids to learn the techniques of 3-D drawing.

www.drawwithmark.com/is.htm ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

KINDERART offers more than 130 free lessons in drawing, painting, and other crafts.

www.bconnex.net/~jarea/lessons.htm ★★★★★

The Mining Co.'s guide to **CRAFTS FOR KIDS** is always up to date with seasonal activities for idle little hands.

craftsforkids.miningco.com ★★★★★

ELEMENTARY ART LESSONS is a collection of teaching ideas contributed by K-6 art teachers from across the country.

[www.artswire.org/kenroar/lessons/elem/](http://www.artswire.org/kenroar/lessons/elem/elemlessons.html)
elemlessons.html ★★★★★

CRAYOLA COLORING BOOK is guaranteed to provide a steady flow of works for the refrigerator-door exhibit.

[www.crayola.com/](http://www.crayola.com/color_index.html)
color_index.html

★★★★★ —D.G.



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- real time credit card servers
- unix and nt servers
- anonymous FTP
- real time statistics
- secure server
- RealPlayer
- RealAudio
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gear.yahoo.com



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Bags. We name it. You want it.

DO YOU YAHOO!?

GEAR

Rhythm & Blues

THE BEST ★★★★★

When Big Bill Broonzy wrote, "I've got the key to the highway," chances are good he was not referring to the information superhighway. Nevertheless, the digital highway can be the key to understanding and appreciating the blues, Broonzy's beloved musical form. Your first taste of blues on the Web should be at the terrific **BLUE FLAME CAFE**. This interactive encyclopedia is both comprehensive in its scope (entries range from Bessie Smith to Janis Joplin) and detailed in its coverage. Read about the lives and music of dozens of blues legends, renowned and obscure. Find out how many aliases Ida Cox used, or about Champion Jack Dupree's stay in a Japanese POW camp. Most entries include a photo and sound sample. www.blueflamecafe.com ★★★★★

Music fans tend to think of the blues as a simple, emotionally direct genre, one that

conforms to standard structures and themes. But one look at the **ALL-MUSIC GUIDE**'s discussion of the blues will show you the genre's diversity. The AMG offers descriptions of nearly 75 (!) styles of blues, deftly explaining how each region—from the Piedmont to the Delta to Chicago to Texas to California—attaches its own meaning and its own interpretation. Key artists from each subgenre are represented with complete discographies. www.allmusic.com (select "Blues" from the pull-down menu) ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

The print publication **BLUES ACCESS ONLINE** shares a great portion of its content with online visitors, including features, columns, and record reviews. It also provides an index of record labels to help users find albums they're seeking. www.bluesaccess.com ★★★★★

Top painters provide vivid renderings of significant bluesmen and blueswomen at **THE ELECTRIC GALLERY'S JAZZ AND BLUES WING**. Take the walking tour of the wing, and be sure to have your credit card handy. www.egallery.com/jazz.html ★★★★★

THAT BLUES MUSIC PAGE, courtesy of Weightless Dog Productions, offers a worthwhile overview of Chicago blues that ranges from Elmore James (one of the first artists to electrify the Delta sound) through the Chess Studios hit factory to Mighty Sam McClain. Also, the blues map highlights currently active bands and venues from around the country. www.fred.net/turtle/blues.shtml ★★★★★



John Lee Hooker, who worked as a janitor before hitting it big, influenced artists from the Animals to Fleetwood Mac.

BLUES RADIO

King Biscuit Time Juke Box. From Sonny Boy Williamson II to Sunnyland Slim to Sonny Terry, this is an eclectic and thorough collection in RealAudio.

www.kingbiscuit.com/juke.htm

At **THE BLUE HIGHWAY**, the wonderful map of the fertile Delta will take you back to where it all began, and tributes to such pioneers as W.C. Handy and Charley Patton will give you a sense of the music's origins. Arne Brogger contributes insightful essays focusing on the Memphis scene, including discussions of Furry Lewis and Bukka White. The Highway also offers users listings of live radio shows. thebluehighway.com ★★★★★

From longtime Boston DJ Mai Cramer comes **THE BLUES CHANNEL**. Cramer offers up a new interview with a different artist each month. Sometimes, she dips into her archives to bring out classic talks with such legends as Muddy Waters. www.realblues.com ★★★★★

The gutbucket of blues sites would have to be **BLUESWEB**. Inside this, uh, spontaneous site you'll find the Delta Snake Blues News, assorted song samples, lyrics, a FAQ for Harp-L (a mailing list aimed at harmonica enthusiasts), pictures, profiles, and societies. If cleanliness is next to godliness, however, then this site sides with the devil. www.island.net/~blues ★★★★★

WWW.BLUESFESTIVALS.COM gives you all the information you need to plan a road trip. You'll also find links to the official sites of the festivals, assuming they've initiated a Web presence. www.bluesfestivals.com ★★★★★

Finally, the blues novice can learn the basics at **THE BLUES CALLIN' ME**. Worth noting is the provocative essay describing how the blues laid the foundation for many other forms of music, from funk to heavy metal. www.wam.umd.edu/~jamihn/blues.html ★★★★★

—M.G.



The Screen Savers,
weeknights, 10pm EST

If food gets its own channel, why shouldn't computers?

- 1 This is ZDTV.[™] The new 24-hour television network devoted to computing, the Internet and all the possibilities.* Lively, fast-paced, energetic shows that help you get the most out of your computer. 2 This is your TV. You can watch a therapy channel, a military channel, even an anti-aging channel. All very useful for small groups of people. But computing and the Internet affect everyone, in every aspect of life. (Hey, this computer channel thing isn't such a crazy idea!) 3 The ZDTV/3Com[®] Big Picture[™] Netcam Network. It's one of the many ways to communicate with us. And check out our integrated web site, zdtv.com, featuring all kinds of interaction, contests, deeper stories and more information. 4 This is one of our many shows, *The Screen Savers*.[™] A live, call-in help show for advice on everything from downloading software to coping with hardware disasters. 5 These are our hosts, Leo and Kate. They're funny, entertaining, smart and very hip (technologically speaking, of course). 6 Hmm, a viewer has the ol' I-spilled-a-margarita-on-my-keyboard problem. 7 An actual live re-enactment of the aforementioned viewer computer problem. 8 Check out *The Screen Savers* or any of our other exciting shows. And bring your computer. It'll enjoy ZDTV as much as you will.

*To get ZDTV, you have to call your local cable or satellite provider and ask them to add it to your lineup.



Television about computing

Movie & TV Quotes

THE BEST ★★★★★

For folks who gather the well-said the way other people collect baseball cards, surfing *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* is a great starting point, but if you're hungry for twentieth-century thoughts, don't bother looking there. And let's face it: These days, aside from presidential sound bites, a lot of commonly heard gems come from TV shows and movies. Our favorite headquarters for movie quotes is **MOTHER OF ALL QUOTES**, a selection from a few dozen films, including *Mean Streets*; *Austin Powers*; *The Wild Bunch*; *Aliens*; *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*; *Citizen Kane*; and *Mad Max*, presented in amusing and clean (aside from some nasty misspellings) fashion.

www.pacificnet.net/~noname/quotes.html

★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

We all know which character is the real star of *The Simpsons*. (Here's a hint: "Three-day waiting period?! But I'm angry *now*!") Grab hold of some of Homer's best lines (and dialogues with his brain) at **100% GUARANTEED UNOFFICIAL THE SIMPSONS**, which also boasts viewers' observations of oddities found in every single episode. Take a look, too, at a concordance of all of Homer's mouthwatering "Mmmms!" Or if you just want to check out Bart's prank calls to Moe, go to **SCOTT'S SIMPSONS PAGE!**

www.users.zetnet.co.uk/griff/simpson.htm

★★★★★

www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/2534

★★★★★

Quickest way to talk hip: Inspect **FRANKENSLANG**, the conversational stylings of the late Mr. Sinatra, one of



Groovy, baayybee! Mother of All Quotes will quench your *Austin Powers* desire.

the leaders of that original bastion of cool, the Rat Pack. Get in the groove, or you'll be nowhere, baby. Endsville.

www.vex.net/~buff/sinatra/lists/frankenslang.html

★★★★★

The Internet Movie Database's **QUOTE OF THE DAY** sometimes gets a little arcane. But you just might learn something.

www.us.imdb.com/quote_of_the_day

★★★★★

All Python fans know a welcome sight when they see one. In the case of **MONTY PYTHON SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SONGS, SILLINESS**, it's the quote at the top of the page: "There is no cannibalism in the British navy, absolutely none, and when I say none, I mean there is a certain amount."—Sir John Cunningham." This fine page has a good quotes area, with one or two pleasant surprises.

www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/8889/python.htm

★★★★★

NBC's *Seinfeld* certainly contributed to conversations around the country—everything from soup to Nazis, in fact.

SEINFELD QUOTES is a best-of for fans who want to relive the glory days.

netnow.micron.net/~philco/seinfeld/seinfeld.htm

★★★★★

The puzzling aphorisms of Stephen Wright, the Age of Anxiety's answer to Bob Hope, are all over the Net. **A FEW STEPHEN WRIGHT QUOTES** is the cleanest collection we've seen.

www.eecis.udel.edu/~morriss/humor/stephen_wright.html

★★★★★

Hard-core Trekkies can find stardated quotes from the *Star Trek* movies, the original show, *The Next Generation*, or even *Deep Space Nine* on **STAR TREK QUOTES**.

www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/~hwloidl/ST-quotes.html

★★★★★

Think there might be some collections of Jack Handey's Deep Thoughts on the Web? If you do, you're right; there are a ton of them. Have a look at **DEEP THOUGHTS BY JACK HANDEY** anyway.

www.ultranet.com/~cgrin/deep.htm

★★★★★

X-FILES—whose numbers are legion—can investigate some of the typical Mulder-Scully exchanges at **MULDERISMS AND SCULLYISMS**. Do you remember this one, from the pilot episode? Scully: "The answers are there. You just have to know where to look." Mulder: "That's why they put the 'I' in *FBI*!"

www.geocities.com/Area51/5712/MSisms.html

★★★★★

Egregiously eccentric, egotistical, embarrassing—that's Emo! Find a few pearls from the man who said, "I'm a great lover, I'll bet," on **EMO PHILLIPS**. We want more!

themegacity.com/alis/jokes/emo.htm

★★★★★

WORLD'S MOST VILLAINOUS QUOTES is a good idea, though it's a little short on content. Sample: " 'Why for fifty-three years I've put up with it now. I must stop Christmas from coming, but how?'—the Grinch."

www.gva.net/misenber/villains.htm

★★★★★

—R.T.

Teen Dramas

THE BEST ★★★★★

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER: MONSTER PAGE OF LINKS provides a much-needed rescue for fans trying to navigate the Hellmouth of sites devoted to the show. Find FAQs, forums, episode guides, fan fiction, photos, interviews, merchandise, and plenty of info on the cast and its creator. Sites are categorized and briefly described, so you can easily pinpoint just where to locate, say, sound clips of such classic Buffy lines as, "If the apocalypse comes, beep me."

www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Lot/7621

★★★★★

My So-Called Life was canceled in 1995, but fans of the show continue to obsess. Andi's **MY SO-CALLED LIFE** page houses the My So-Called Life Bible, facts on the show's history, plot, characters, and music; and Angela's World, which lovingly, if not scarily, provides copious analysis of every episode and aspect of the show.

idt.net/~dolphin9/mscl ★★★★★

As cleanly designed as the fresh-scrubbed faces of the famous Salinger orphans, TK Baltimore's **PARTY OF FIVE** site is littered with news and gossip, a FAQ, actor bios, fan fiction, and links to music, books, and other sites related to the show. The downloads page even includes a virtual-reality tour of the interior of the Salinger house in San Francisco.

found.cs.nyu.edu/tkbalt/salingers ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

THE ORIGINAL KEVIN WILLIAMSON SITE is devoted to the screenwriter/auteur of such hip teen-horror flicks as *Scream*, *Scream 2*, and *I Know What You Did Last*

Summer, as well as the hit TV show *Dawson's Creek*. He seems to have a steady finger on the often racing pulse of the teenage nation. The cult starts here.

★★★★★

Fans of Dawson, Jen, Pacey, and the girl named Joey will find **CAPE-SIDE: THE DAWSON'S CREEK FAN SITE** a good place to start for pictures, articles, and spoilers. The videotape exchange forum is a functional feature. Keepers is a truly bizarre one—here fans can list themselves as "keepers" of a character's trait (e.g., "Dawson's sweet smile," "Joey's witty personality").

augi.simplenet.com ★★★★★

As **ALICE'S CLASSIC '80S TEEN MOVIE PAGE** points out, teen movies date as far back as *Rebel without a Cause* in the mid-'50s. (In fact, they go back to the '30s.) But the genre's heyday occurred in the '80s, when such movies as *The Breakfast Club*, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Heathers*, *Risky Business*, and *Valley Girl* expressed the angst of a generation. This site has photos, plot synopses, and links to these and other films that will bring tears of nostalgia to your eyes. Broader in focus but less sentimental, **A BLUFFER'S GUIDE**

ON THE SERVICES

America Online Teen People. This *People* offshoot has the requisite cache of star photos, bios, and autographs, all enhanced by daily gossip and the weekly Ask a Star feature.

Keywords: *Teen People*



Dawson's Creek's Dawson (left) and Joey keep teen hormones raging on the Web.

FRANK OCKENFELS

TO TEEN MOVIES has summaries of teen movies from the distant and more recent past (e.g., *Dazed and Confused*, *Mallrats*). They're painfully witty in tone but occasionally quite hilarious.

www.bugsmagazine.com/alice/teen.htm

★★★★★

www.geocities.com/SoHo/7691/teenintr.htm

★★★★★

Most actors who play teens are far past those years. **REVISITING THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD: BEVERLY HILLS, 90210** looks at the show when it was still about high schoolers, with updates on all the original cast members. The more academic **BEVERLY HILLS 90210 AS NOSTALGIA TELE-**

VISION is a critical analysis of the show as a form of "recombinant realism."

www.UltimateTV.com/news/f/a/98/04/03beverly.html ★★★★★

eserver.org/bs/08/Kile.html ★★★★★

Those who are developmentally frozen in adolescence will find **TOTALLY TEEN TV** a weekly small-screen guide to what might suit their fancy.

www.totaltv.com/teen ★★★★★

—D.G.

A LINK TOO FAR...

The Little Buffy Site. What if Buffy had known about her gifts back when she was a child?

www.wco.com/~cybrpaws/lilbuffy.html



Fans Against Maltreatment of Claudia and Owen Salinger. Here you'll find help for the most neglected kids on television.

www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Set/5833/lacey.html

Celebrity Gossip

THE BEST ★★★★★

E! ONLINE GOSSIP promises "dish, dirt, and juicy bits," and it delivers with a steamy yet not too unseemly flair. High points include Ted Casablanca's *The Awful Truth*, with observations about such matters as who among the elite is taking Viagra; and the irreverent *Diary of Madonna's Baby*. www.eonline.com/Gossip or AOL Keyword: *E!*

★★★★★

Though **CYBER-SLEAZE** boasts no pictures, its verbal vulgarities more than make up for any lack of color. Its current scandal-



Jim Carrey's and Lauren Holly's marital exploits are fodder for online gossipmeisters.

monger is Jill "the Diva" Stempel, who's like that "bad girl" best friend who gets

around a heck of a lot more than you do. metaverse.com/vibe/sleaze ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★

Star sightings are cited at **STARDUSTED**. www.nynow.com/divertme/stardusted ★★★★★

The **NEW YORK POST GOSSIP** department has links to columns of idle chatter that have a national scope.

www.nypostonline.com/gossip/gossip.htm ★★★★★

TVGEN'S DAILY DISH serves up news about the hottest TV and movie stars, such as Calista Flockhart and Ben Affleck.

www.tvgen.com/dish ★★★★★

Too embarrassed to thumb through a copy of the **NATIONAL ENQUIRER** or **STAR** magazine at the supermarket? Go online.

www.nationalenquirer.com ★★★★★

www.starmagazine.com ★★★★★ —D.G.

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Home Electronics

News and Reviews

THE BEST ★★★★★

CONSUMER REPORTS' tests are famously unbiased and painfully thorough, making them particularly useful for those baffled

by myriad home-electronics buying options. We saw about three dozen articles on audio, video, and camera equipment. Full access will cost you \$3 per month, but a few features are free, such as a recent piece on how to set up a home theater. Also available on *America Online* at Keywords: Consumer Reports.

www.consumerreports.org ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

PRODUCT REVIEWNET abstracts thousands of magazine reviews of all manner of objects, including cameras, video equipment, telephones, and audio gear. A great site for a fast reality check before you buy.

www.productreviewnet.com

★★★★★

Opinions expressed at **AUDIO REVIEW**, which covers stereo and hi-fi, come from consumers. Among the thousands of product reviews are multiple reviews of each product: Read a few and you'll get a good idea of a product's strengths and weaknesses.

www.audioreview.com ★★★★★

SMR HOME THEATER ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB both explains the technology and

reviews the products that make up high-end home theaters. The reviews describe product performance at length.

www.smr-home-theatre.org/Interface.html

★★★★★



This diagram from the *Consumer Reports* site shows you how to lay out a home-theater system.

POPULAR HOME AUTOMATION is an eclectic mix of home-electronics products with the gadget freak, not the nontechnical enthusiast, in mind. Besides speakers and telephones, it also reviews touch-screen monitors and line analyzers for electricians.

The reviews are

lengthy and detailed, but there aren't many of them—about a dozen when we last checked.

www.pophome.com/reviews.shtml ★★★★★

E/TOWN NEWS is short on quantity—we saw about a dozen reviews of audio, video, and telephone equipment. But the reviews are knowledgeable.

www.e-town.com/news/index.html#np ★★★★★

Say what you will about the sci-fi bent of **WIRED**, but the editors do love gadgets. Oddly enough, its monthly gadgets-and-toys section, *Fetish*, isn't gathered into one area, but you can find the *Fetish* section of each issue by using the search engine.

www.wired.com/wired ★★★★★

WHATS4SALE's Product Reviews and Buying Guides have hundreds of links to reviews elsewhere as well as appliances and lawn and garden products.

www.whats4sale.com/product.htm ★★★★★

HOME THEATER ONLINE is the online home of the print magazine. This new site is not yet well organized: You can't search for reviews of specific products.

www.hometheatermag.com

★★★★★

THE GADGET GURU ONLINE covers audio, video, and game systems and a broad range of other items from kitchen devices to bicycles. Don't expect consistent objectivity: Vendors provide many of the articles, although, to its credit, this site clearly marks the articles as such.

www.gadgetguru.com ★★★★★

TECHNOFILE has several dozen reviews of video and audio equipment and various gadgets. But beware of the poor and cliché-riddled writing that is to be found here, including trite and hackneyed gems such as a product being described as "the greatest thing...since sliced bread."

www.technofile.com ★★★★★

—D.H.

SHOPPING BOTS

Want to compare features or streamline the online buying process? Try a shopping bot. **CompareNet** displays side-by-side product comparisons. Its product coverage includes audio and video equipment and cameras.

www.compare.net



Tell **Excite Shopping** what you want and it will find specific products, prices, and reviews. It then can lead you to sites at which you can buy the equipment online.

www.jango.excite.com

The **Visa Shopping Guide by Yahoo!** helps you find what you want, provides information about the products, and has links to online merchants.

shopguide.yahoo.com

Tennis

THE BEST ★★★★★

The ace **TENNIS SERVER** offers resources for both fan and player. News and commentary discuss the pros; columns cover your game: practice regimens, "mental equipment," and grooming promising juniors. Primers on tennis rules make this site a logical springboard for tennis research.

www.tennisserver.com ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

Offering a full slate of online lessons, **TENNISONE** will help hone your stroke and

strengthen your serve. Lesson plans include everything from mechanics and footwork to fitness and game strategy. Also available is a listing of clubs and facilities.

www.tennisone.com ★★★★★

Of course, the best way for novices to learn is by studying the games of the more talented and experienced. The official **COREL WTA TOUR** page gives you the inside scoop on the professional women's circuit, including news, results, stats, and rankings.

www.corelwtatour.com

★★★★★

The men's game is represented by the official **ATP TOUR** site, which provides current statistical and ranking data plus news, schedules, and a brief history of the ATP. Also worthwhile are the player profiles.

www.atptour.com ★★★★★

For a dose of analysis and commentary, visit **CBS SPORTSLINE TENNIS TOURNAMENT COVERAGE**. Features delve deep into the Grand Slam events and include histories of the tourneys and in-depth recaps.

www.sportslines.com/u/tennis/tourney.htm

★★★★★

The **U.S. PROFESSIONAL TENNIS ASSOCIATION** is a comprehensive resource for educational programs, special events, and the general "health" of tennis interest across the nation. Here's where you'll find information on programs such as Little Ten-

nis (for youngsters) and Tennis Across America (a nationwide circuit of free group instruction).

www.uspta.org ★★★★★

Despite the fact that it is indeed trying to sell you its wares, the **TENNIS WAREHOUSE** provides a number of useful equipment reviews. If you're in the market, the Racquet Finder can assist you in narrowing down your choices. It allows you to enter a variety of specifications, including head size and shape, power, playing style, and price. Results are returned instantly.

www.tennis-warehouse.com ★★★★★

TENNIS ONLINE TRAVEL's Top 50 tennis resorts are cataloged and profiled, with plenty of helpful advice on planning a "tennis trip."

www.tennis.com/travel

★★★★★



CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT

The world's No. 1-ranked woman, 17-year-old **Martina Hingis**, has a huge Net following.

without having to rely on Grandma as an opponent by visiting the **WORLD WIDE TENNIS LADDER**.

www.sportsladders.com/tennis ★★★★★

The **NATIONAL FOUNDATION OF WHEELCHAIR TENNIS's** official page includes rankings, tournament info, and player profiles for a sport that is growing in popularity.

www.nfwt.org ★★★★★

College and junior tennis is covered at the **TENNIS COUNTRY JUNIOR CLUB**. It has the often elusive results and news updates for the younger players who are making strides toward the professional level.

www.tenniscountry.com/junior.html ★★★★★

—M.G.

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Royalty

THE BEST ★★★★★

Head to the **ALT.TALK.ROYALTY FAQ** to learn the quick facts about any one of the 30 existing monarchies. While concentrat-

ing on the particulars of the British royal family, the FAQ includes information and links for other royal families of the world, as well as information on royal landmarks such as palaces and burial places, and answers to questions such as, "What's the full title of the Prince of Monaco?" If you need to know who's in the line of succession for the British throne or which members of

the royal family are entitled to be called H.R.H., this is the place to find out. Once you're done reading the FAQ, join the **alt.talk.royalty** newsgroup.

users.uniserve.com/~canyon/atrfaq.htm

★★★★★

Like many personal sites, **MARIVI'S ROYALTY PAGE** is mainly a list of links to other sites. Unlike other personal sites, Marivi's pages are up to date and utterly complete. This is the perfect jumping-off point for your royalty exploration, whether you're interested in the Romanovs or any of the other royal families of the world.

www.serv.net/~marivim/royalty.html ★★★★★

THE REST ★★★★★

No matter that the offspring of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (above)



PHOTO: WORLDIDFG

are frequently doing their best to act undignified: The queen's propriety still reigns at the official **BRITISH MONARCHY** site. Read press releases from Buckingham Palace, learn about the history of the British monarchy, visit the

official pages of the main members of the royal family, and get the history and tourist info on all of the royal palaces. If you can't make it to London, there are excellent pictures here of the palaces and artifacts such as the Crown Jewels. It's not all pomp and circumstance; in the FAQ section you can learn about Dookie, King George VI's first corgi.

www.royal.gov.uk ★★★★★

The very model of a modern monarch's Web site is **H.M. QUEEN NOOR OF JORDAN's** Web site. Learn about her many charity projects for the welfare of women and children both in Jordan and around the world and about her interest in architectural preservation. Read

the text of her speeches, interviews, and press releases. In the Photo Album you'll find pictures such as ones featuring Queen Noor (then Lisa Halaby) at Princeton in the '70s and later riding a motorcycle in the

desert with King Hussein of Jordan.
www.accessme.com/QNoorjo ★★★★★

THE MAD MONARCHS SERIES at Joan's Royalty in History includes entries on Kinky Kings, Deranged Dukes, and Peculiar Princesses, just to name a few. Read about the large, misshapen head of Carlos the Bewitched of Spain, the schizophrenia of Eric XIV of Sweden, and other tales of royal dissipation and debauchery. Beneficent nobles such as Eleanor of Aquitaine, who managed to avoid venereal disease and psychological breakdown and lived to the ripe old age of 82, are represented, too, but who can resist tales of insanity and rampant adultery?

www.xs4all.nl/~kvenjb/madmon.htm ★★★★★

THE ROYAL PALACE is the place to get biographies and genealogical information about every major European monarch.

www.camelotintl.com/royal ★★★★★

Get the dirt on the queen whose likeness is featured on the Bombay gin bottle at **VICTORIA'S DARK SECRETS**. Learn the origins of the "royal disease" of hemophilia, started in the royal line when first cousins Victoria and Albert wed. If that's not racy enough for you, there's information on Victoria's connections to Jack the Ripper and vampirism.

gate.cruzio.com/~ytulip/vdscnts.html

★★★★★

—R.B.

NEWSGROUPS

alt.talk.royalty
alt.gossip.royalty
clari.living.royalty

ROCKIN' ARISTOCRATS



KELLY CATCHINGS

Monarchy in the USA! Those royalists who favor the raucous sound of rock and roll over the more staid sound of chamber music should check out the powdered wigs, long coats, and electric guitars of Upper Crust, "the world's most privileged band."

www.juvalamu.com/crust

PRETTY PS STRANGE

Nuclear Warrior

www.nuclearwarrior.com

How unfortunate. Just when you thought the phrase "nuclear armament" was destined to vanish under the gathering dust of mid- to late-twentieth-century history, bombs are being built again. To take the edge off consequent doomsday fears, this site offers a salve titled "New Song for a New World." Click on the audio link, and suddenly a discordant electric guitar riff, reminiscent of a B-side Bay City Rollers song, fills your airspace. Suddenly, too, bombs seem a better alternative.



Julio Iglesias' Prom Planning Calculator for Boys

www.chickenhead.com/julio

Who could be better suited than master of romance Julio Iglesias to counsel young men on preparations for the biggest romantic night of their young lives? Commonsense tips abound (e.g., always pick up dates in "fine motorcars" with backseats "swathed in the buttery skin of a dozen calves"). And you'll know instantly how much all of it will set you back. This primer may be geared toward 17-year-olds, but its wisdom is of value to us all.



Planet Ketchup

www.ketchup.wonderland.org

There's nothing intrinsically odd about an online collection of ketchup-based recipes. After all, the Web is a haven for special interests. But Planet Ketchup's message board full of ketchup "sins" effortlessly catapults this saucy salute into the realm of the strange. Read movingly confessional accounts of how people have used the versatile condiment on tuna fish, liver, green beans, and—yes, we regret to tell you—ice cream. Want fries with that?



HTML, The Game

www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/Marina/4802/thegame.htm

In this wry "walk-through" of a Quake-like first-person adventure game, you're a rocket-launching Webmaster in search of such evil HTML tags as <BLINK> and <SCROLLAMOUNT>. Once you've mastered the single-player realm, death-match mode lets you decimate the hard work of other Webmasters. No, you can't actually play this game (Doh! It's a parody). But at the risk of making a <BOLD> proposition, we think it should "go live."

Celebrity Seance Time

AOL Keyword: *Extra*; select "Chat"

Vivien Leigh would prefer that Jaclyn Smith (pictured) play Scarlett O'Hara in a *Gone with the Wind* remake. Of course, Leigh's been dead since 1964. But thanks to Extra Online's house psychic, Leigh recently held her first Web chat. "[Smith] doesn't have my talent, but she has my beauty," says Leigh, visiting from the Other Side. Though Clark Gable and Leslie Howard are also omnipresent and accounted for in the transcript, the recently departed Butterfly McQueen is curiously absent. The full text, like Vivien, Clark, and Leslie, lives on in Extra's Chat archive.



Digital Landfill

www.potatoland.org/landfill

From the twisted mind that brought us the Distorted Barbie (see "Pretty Strange," *Y-Life*, 10/97), comes this collection of visitor-contributed Net flotsam. Holding on to that heinous spam for posterity? Copy and paste it in here. Or maybe you'd like to donate info on the personal home page you just found that lists the contents of some guy's refrigerator. *Caution: Don't share this valuable compendium with recently initiated surfers. They might just cancel their Net service.*

Craving strange? Go straight to www.prettystrange.com.

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As Lead Map Designer for id Software, Tim Willits was charged with crafting the techno-palaces of



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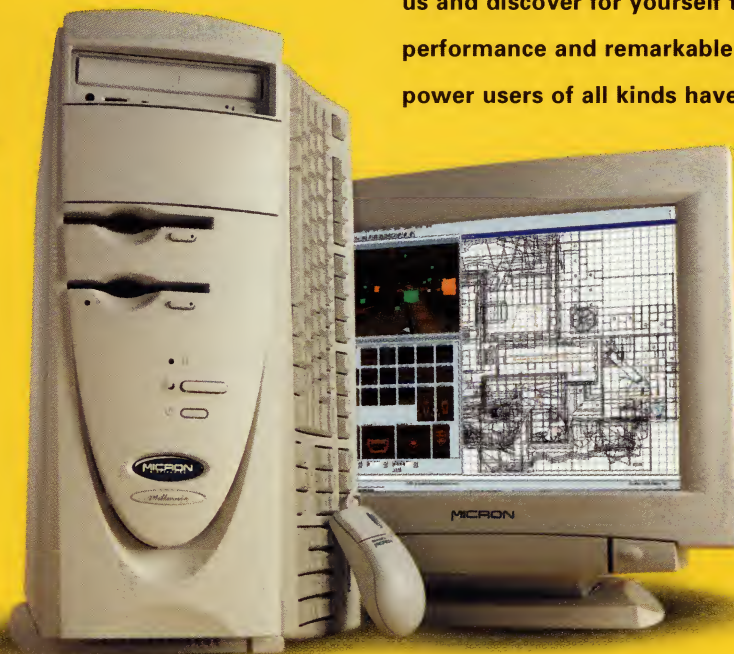
to put each level to the test, Tim realized he would need nothing less than the blazing power of the Micron™ Millennia®. In the cutthroat, budget-driven environment of software design, the tools make or break a project.

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- PC World "Best Buy," August '98

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PC WORLD ONLINE "BEST BUY," MAY '98

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(Micron Millennia MiniTower pictured.)

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(SOUND FAMILIAR?)

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CNET Editors' Choice, Best UltraPortable Reviewed - June '98

You don't get to recharge your batteries every four hours. You don't get to rest whenever you feel like it. Why should your notebook? Life on the road is no cakewalk and your notebook should be designed to endure the rigors of mobile life as well as you do. Introducing the GoBook notebook. With modular battery design, lightning-fast performance and an incredibly thin and light package, it's the ultimate companion for those who stop at nothing to succeed. It's no wonder GoBook was just awarded the CNET Editors' Choice for best UltraPortable reviewed saying, "For standing up to the vagaries of travel, the Micron GoBook is the best bet going."



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